



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

May 28, 2009

SB 205 (Hancock) Local Transportation Funding

Issue: SB 205 (Hancock) would provide countywide transportation planning agencies with a local funding option by allowing, upon a majority vote of the electorate, an annual fee of up to \$10 on motor vehicles registered in a county for transportation-related programs and projects.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend to the Board a position of support for SB 205 as it would provide an option for additional resources for transportation projects consistent with our 2009 state advocacy principles.

Discussion: Existing law establishes a basic vehicle registration fee of \$34, plus a \$22 surcharge for additional personnel for the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and authorizes local agencies until January 1, 2010 to impose separate vehicle registration fee surcharges in their respective jurisdictions for a variety of special programs.

Senate Bill 205 (Hancock) would provide countywide transportation planning agencies with a local funding option by allowing, upon a majority vote of the electorate, an annual fee of up to \$10 on motor vehicles registered in a county for transportation-related programs and projects. SB205 differs from SB406 (DeSaulnier), in that 1) it requires a vote of the electorate, versus a vote of the governing board; and 2) funds are eligible for a broader set of transportation-related programs and projects. A variety of transportation projects such as ITS, road rehabilitation, and transit projects would be eligible under the bill's umbrella definition of "congestion mitigation programs and projects" and "pollution mitigation programs and projects." For the six-county region, the range of potential annual revenue is estimated to be \$2.1 million for a \$1 fee, to \$20.9 million for a \$10 fee.

As of May 27, the bill is currently awaiting a third reading on the Senate Floor. It previously passed the Senate Transportation & Housing and Appropriations committees. Current support includes: Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (sponsor), Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, TransForm, and various Bay Area transportation agencies. Opposition includes: the Automobile Club of Southern California, AAA for Northern California, and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

The bill is attached for your review.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:RS:MC:pm

Attachment

Key Staff: Rebecca Sloan, Director of External Affairs and Member Services, (916) 340-6224
Matt Carpenter, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6276
Erik Johnson, Public Information Coordinator, (916) 340-6247