

February 19, 2015

Friends:

I regret not being in attendance at our Board meeting today. I want to share some highlights and a few upcoming activities.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) Update

This effort continues to be a centerpiece of our work together and the major workload commitment for our staff. I am very pleased to see the context setting discussion on this work in Item 12 in today's agenda. I appreciate the deep discussion at the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee in February regarding the purpose, structure, and essential need for this MTP/SCS update. Attachment A displays the building block MTP/SCS actions of our Board at our meetings of December 2013, March 2014, and December 2014 and those yet to come in future meetings. In addition to the ongoing analytical work, over the past month, our staff have conducted a series of elected official briefings, presentations to councils, and boards and a stakeholder workshop. I attended the elected official briefing in Yolo County. All Yolo County SACOG member jurisdictions were well represented and they were joined by representatives of UC Davis, Yocha Dehe, Yolo County Office of Education, and several other local leadership groups. I was very impressed with the range of questions and the clear interest by all present. Attachment C in Item 12 is a great compilation of the topics raised at the latest Public Outreach Meeting. I appreciate our staff's commitment to ongoing transparency and clear discussion of the array of policy issues before us.

Federal Advocacy Delegation

SACOG conducts an annual delegation to advance our federal advocacy principles. This year, our delegation consisted of Mike McKeever, Erik Johnson, Vice-Chair Susan Rohan, and myself. This delegation conducted 12 separate meetings with congressional and administration officials, including with five members of our region's Congressional Delegation. Our priority topics for advocacy included:

- Transportation Act Reauthorization. Support six-year authorization, increased support for MPO funding consistent with increased requirements from federal law, streamline processes, and support performance measurement and incentive funding.
- Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar. Support for funding proposal in the President's budget. In addition, we discussed the importance of this project as a connecting centerpiece of our region's transit network and a key component of the urban revitalization underway. We arrived at an agreement with DOT officials on a workable approach to ridership modeling for the funding proposal. We also identified and pursued a method of retaining the language of the President's proposal necessary to advance the project. These steps support the efforts of other regional partners in supporting this project.

- Rural Urban Connection Strategy. We share detailed briefings with two key audiences - House Agriculture Committee staff and a multi-agency group hosted by the Rural Development arm of USDA. Our objectives here were to educate key federal officials on RUCS and advance interest in partnerships, replication and funding. This work will be continued as part of the Cap-to-Cap delegation in April.

Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council Outreach

We have been contacted by Barry Broome, CEO of the newly formed Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council (GSAEC). As you know, this organization recently merged with the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (SACTO). Mr. Broome has requested an opportunity to speak with our SACOG Board as part of his outreach in the region. We are working with him to bring him to our Board meeting or another appropriate venue for discussion with our Board. I am delighted to have this opportunity to connect our efforts with other key regional partners. Stay tuned.

Transparency of SACOG Board Meetings and Processes

I am delighted that today's agenda includes a recommendation to make live audio broadcasts of our Board meetings available to the public. Most of our member jurisdictions broadcast or stream both video and audio of their meetings. I appreciate the work of the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee in considering the possibilities for making our meetings more accessible to the public. This will be a good step.

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