



Item #16-12-4

## Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee      Action

November 23, 2016

### **Policy on U.S. Department of Transportation Requirement for Transit Representation in Metropolitan Planning Organization Structure**

**Issue:** Should SACOG designate transit representatives on the SACOG Board to comply with federal guidance?

**Recommendation:** That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board adopt a policy to designate any Board member who also serves on a transit board as a transit representative for purposes of complying with federal guidance.

**Discussion:** The *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) requires representation by providers of public transportation on the governing board for each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that serves a transportation management area (TMA). In 2015, the successor to MAP-21, Fixing America's Surface Transportation System (FAST Act), clarified that the requirement for transit representation could be satisfied by a member of the MPO governing board who also serves as a board member for a public transit agency.

This is the solution that SACOG and other California MPOs advocated for in 2014 when FTA proposed guidance that did not allow for this. Staff is pleased with this outcome, as the alternative would have required amending SACOG's joint powers agreement.

Under SACOG's Board structure, a minimum of five Board members also serve on the governing boards of transit providers in the region. This is due to the fact that of the 14 transit agencies in the region, five are governed by a city council or board of supervisors. Many SACOG Board members also typically serve on the boards of other transit operators. Staff recommends that the Board adopt a resolution annually designating those Board members who serve on public transit boards as transit representations for the purposes of complying with MAP-21.

Approved by:

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Chief Executive Officer

MM:EJ:ts

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