



Executive Director's Report

January 26, 2009

STATE UPDATE

CARB Schedules Scoping Plan Workshop: The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is hosting a public workshop on the Implementation of the Climate Change Scoping Plan. This workshop will focus on the process of turning the adopted Scoping Plan into actions to achieve the needed greenhouse gas emission reductions in a timely and cost-effective manner. The meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate. The workshop will be held on Thursday, January 29 at the Cal/EPA Building in Sacramento. To view the public notice for the workshop please [click here](#). For more information please contact Legislative and Regulatory Assistant Sabrina Means at 916-446-4656 or by email at sabrina@caltransit.org.

AB 118's AQIP – Public Workshops Planned: The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is hosting two public workshops on the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Guideline and FY 2009-10 Funding Plan development next month. The AQIP is pursuant to AB 118 (Nunez, Chapter 750, Statutes of 2007), which provides about \$50 million annually through 2015 for the AQIP Program to fund a variety of air quality incentive projects, including low-emission vehicles and equipment projects, air quality research, and advanced technology workforce training. The public workshops will be held on February 4 in Sacramento and February 5 in Fresno. The workshop on February 4 will also be webcast. [Click here](#) to see the notice for this public workshop. Please contact Legislative and Regulatory Assistant Sabrina Means at 916-446-4656 or by email at sabrina@caltransit.org with any questions.

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Executive & Legislative Committees Meet Jointly: Last week our Association leaders met jointly for a full day, focusing on the state budget crisis's impact on transit funding. Former Assembly Member Fred Keeley provided some "inside baseball" context for how legislative leaders and the governor are most likely currently making decisions on what programs to cut, and Brian Kelly, the Policy Director for Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, spoke to us about the impact on transit funding. We also heard an update from our lead counsel on our appeal of the Association's litigation. The group provided tactical direction to staff regarding the budget fight, and, the Executive Committee ultimately recommitted funds to exploring, in partnership with key interest groups, the possibility of sponsoring a referendum initiative to protect transit funds.

Association's Lobby Day Set for March 25: All California Transit Association members are invited to join us in Sacramento for our annual Lobby Day. The event presents an opportunity to meet with your legislative representatives to give them a first-hand account of the importance of state funding for public transit. A briefing and orientation session helps bring you up to speed on the latest developments in the Capitol, and will include a primer on our key messaging points and issues of emphasis. We then turn you loose on the Capitol so you can make your case face-to-face. The Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel will serve as Lobby Day headquarters. There is a discounted sleeping room rate of \$199 for the evening of March 24. To receive the \$199 rate, call 916-341-3627 to make your reservation by March 3, and ask for the California Transit Association group rate.

New Task Force to Coordinate Statewide Media Outreach: A new Association task force has been formed, and the collective work of the group is already paying off. Comprised of Public Information and Media Relations representatives from ten of our largest member agencies, the PIO Task Force will convene bi-weekly via conference call under the direction of Association Communications Director Jeff Wagner. The group was launched with the goal of fostering a coordinated statewide approach to media outreach efforts on behalf of public transit, particularly focused on the funding crisis. Task force members were instrumental in the process that led to the [Los Angeles Times editorial](#) of January 12, and in arranging upcoming meetings with the editorial boards of the San Francisco Chronicle and Sacramento Bee. Please contact Jeff at jeff@caltransit.org with any questions, comments or suggestions.



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