



Executive Director's Report

December 8, 2008

STATE UPDATE

Clock Ticking on New Budget Special Session: The Governor's declaration of a fiscal emergency last Monday started the clock on a 45-day deadline for the Legislature to address the projected \$11 billion hole in the state budget that was adopted in September. After 45 days, the Legislature is barred from taking action on ANY other matter until the budget is resolved. Of course, within that 45-day window comes the day the Governor will present his proposed budget for the NEXT fiscal year (2009-10). The legislature's latest proposal (which failed in a party-line vote on Nov. 25) called for a cut of \$156 million to the State Transit Assistance (STA) Program, a 51-percent reduction from the \$306 million allocated in the September budget. The Governor's plan released Nov. 6 proposed a \$230 million cut to STA (from September's allocation), and the complete elimination of the program beginning in 2009-10. The legislative plan at least retains the program (at an annual level of \$150 million). Once again, **it's still imperative that members continue to lobby their legislative delegations** – with an emphasis on educating new legislators – to demand preservation of the \$306 million STA allocation included in the budget that was enacted in September, which itself represents a diversion of 84 percent of available transit funding for the current fiscal year. Please contact Legislative Advocate Gus Khouri (Gus@CalTransit.org) or Legislative and Regulatory Assistant Sabrina Means (Sabrina@CalTransit.org) or call 916-446-4656 if you have any questions.

Next Phase of Scoping Plan Approval Process Set for Thursday: The California Air Resources Board will consider the AB 32 Scoping Plan for approval at its scheduled board hearing on December 11. The board members will be voting on the Plan at the hearing, after hearing a continuation of testimony and discussion from the November Board Meeting. While oral testimony will also be accepted at the December 11 hearing, the Board requests that the public not duplicate their previous comments. Please [click here](#) to see the agenda. Please contact Legislative and Regulatory Assistant Sabrina Means at 916-446-4656 or by email at sabrina@caltransit.org with questions.

Caltrans Seeks Comment on Smart Mobility Framework: In September, Association staff attended a workshop hosted by Caltrans on the Smart Mobility Framework that is being developed by Caltrans, with the help of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to evaluate transportation options available in California's urban, suburban, and rural areas. The "Smart Mobility Framework" will assist with the implementation of multi-modal and sustainable transportation strategies in California. Criteria to be considered in developing this tool will include (but are not limited to): density, design, configuration, connectivity, safety, parking strategies, mixtures of land uses, availability of transit, complete streets (including adequate, integrated bicycle and walking facilities), and open spaces. Caltrans has just distributed a draft of the definition and principles for Smart Mobility, as well as an updated fact sheet on the Smart Mobility Framework. Please [click here](#) to see these documents. Comments are due by COB on December 10. Please contact Legislative and Regulatory Assistant Sabrina Means at 916-446-4656 or by email at sabrina@caltransit.org with questions.

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Transit Association Budget for 2009 Approved at November Fall Conference – Special One-Day Executive Committee Workshop Set for January 2009: The Executive Committee adopted its 2009 budget, supporting an Association work program at the same level as 2008. Members of the Committee expressed concern about strapped operating budgets of the members, directing that dues increases for 2009 be restricted. The result is a budget that "rolls over" the effort from 2008 into planning for 2009 activities. Chair Michael Burns (General Manager, Santa Clara VTA) further directed that the Committee set a special meeting for January 2009 to realign our programs and resources to face the persistent raids on State transit funding. For further information about the 2009 budget or work program, please contact me or Deputy Executive Director Jim McElroy (jim@caltransit.org).



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ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ACTIVITIES (cont.)

State Legislative Program for 2009 Adopted: Following a period of open solicitations, review by the Legislative Committee and approval by the Executive Committee at its meeting in November, the Association's 2009 State Legislative Program is now finalized. The program is guided by our three advocacy priorities: ensuring that existing transit funds are protected, securing new funds for transit, and pursuing laws and regulations that support transit while defeating those that impede transit's ability to meet the public's mobility needs. [Click here](#) to view the plan of attack for 2009.

Fall Conference Wrap Up Now Online: If you missed it – or just want to revisit it – www.caltransit.org now features a wrap-up of our recent Fall Conference and Expo. [Click here](#) to review the program, or any of the dozens of Power Point files used during presentations at the four-day gathering in Monterey. And we still have more than 1,500 photos of the event being uploaded for viewing. Conference participants are encouraged to fill out one of our surveys to provide feedback on the event. Attendees can [click here](#) to complete the survey. Exhibitors and Sponsors are asked to complete [this version](#) of the survey.

Post Your Bids and Proposals at www.caltransit.org: A widely-requested feature of the new Association website we launched in September is the "Bids & Proposals" page, which allows members to post RFPs for upcoming projects. It works similarly to the job postings page – members just need to log in, click the Bids & Proposals link at the top of the home page, and then click the "Submit an RFP" link. The postings will be viewable by any visitors to the site, but you'll need a user account to post an RFP. You can set up an account by clicking the "Create New Account" link on the home page. Be sure to pass this item along to the appropriate person in your organization so that you can take advantage of this valuable new feature.



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