



Executive Director's Report

March 16, 2009

STATE UPDATE

PBS Series Highlights the Plight of Transit Funding in California: As part of its ongoing "Blueprint America" series on the infrastructure crisis in America, PBS television's *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* last week featured a report on the hardships faced by transit providers in California on the heels of the recent elimination of the State Transit Assistance program. The report compiled by Rick Karr of WNET in New York, entitled "Transit in Trouble," included interviews with San Francisco MTA General Manager Nathaniel Ford, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier and numerous transit-dependent riders in the Bay Area. The report also included footage from the recent meeting of the Western Contra Costa Transit Authority (WestCAT), at which the board voted to implement service reductions in response to ever-diminishing operations funding. [Click here](#) to view videos and transcripts from the report.

Caltrans Website Offers Details on Federal Stimulus Disbursements: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Mass Transportation has compiled a website that hopes to serve as a one-stop shop for answers to all your questions about the federal stimulus package. According to the site, Approximately \$1.07 billion in California's formula transit funds are allocated directly to operators, and metropolitan planning organizations, with Caltrans having a pass through role for some of the rural funds. California will receive approximately \$968 million under the urban transit formulas, commonly called the 5307 program, \$66 million through the fixed guideway program, and \$34 million for non urban transit. [Click here](#) to visit the Caltrans website.

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Deadline Nears for Lobby Day Registration: Registration for Transit Lobby Day closes **tomorrow** (Tuesday the 17th) at noon. We've had unprecedented response to this year's event, which takes place March 25 in Sacramento. In the wake of the recently-adopted state budget that eliminated the State Transit Assistance program, it is critical that the transit community makes its voice heard. Don't miss this chance to take our case directly to those who influence the outcome. If you haven't already, [click here TODAY](#) to register. There are still a limited number of rooms that have been reserved at the Sheraton Grand Hotel at the special discounted rate. Contact Association Meetings and Membership Director Mary Zavislan at (916) 446-4656 or via mzavislan@caltransit.org for the latest information on accommodations.

Association's Upcoming Webinar to Focus on Terminal Inspection: Our newest interactive webinar presentation has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 29 at 8 a.m. The presentation, hosted by the Association's [Maintenance Committee](#), will examine CHP's annual Terminal Inspections. Maintenance Committee Member **John Roberts (Deputy Executive Officer, Operations, Los Angeles Metro)** reports extraordinary success in hosting sessions with CHP terminal inspection personnel and transit agencies. The Maintenance Committee under the leadership of **George Karbowski (Director of Operations and Maintenance, Foothill Transit)** and **David Olmeda (Director of Maintenance, San Mateo County Transit)** sought to extend the model to a statewide forum, and thus the topic for our next webinar was selected. Stay tuned for more details on how to take part.

Got Any Changes to Your Contact Information?: In order to maintain a current database of our membership, Staff distributes a Contact Verification Form to renewed members. If you have not completed your organization's Contact Verification Form, please complete and return as soon as possible. We will be using this updated information to create the 2009/2010 Annual Directory and Resource Guide. If you have not received a verification form yet, please contact Association Services Assistant, Tuyen Truong at (916) 446-4656, ext. 1004, or via e-mail (tuyen@caltransit.org).



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