



# Executive Director's Report

March 23, 2009

## STATE UPDATE

**Legislature Advances Stimulus Disbursement Measure:** Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 held an informational hearing last week to review draft language on the federal stimulus enabling legislation. The language, which appears to have broad consensus, will ultimately be inserted into AB 20xxx (currently a budget trailer bill) and be authored by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. The legislature was expected to take up the bill in chief during today's session. [Click here](#) to read the bill, [or here](#) to read the subcommittee's staff analysis. The bill does NOT apply to the "transit only" American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, which will flow directly to transit agencies without the need for state legislation; California's share of the "highway" ARRA funds would be distributed under this bill based on the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) formula. This would provide Caltrans with a \$963 million pot (37.5 percent). From that pot, \$625 million will go to fund 57 SHOPP projects and \$77 million from the state's share would go for TEA projects. That would leave \$310 million for Caltrans to use to loan other projects (namely Prop 1B projects that have been held up by the Pooled Money Investment Board) around the state. Regions would receive a 62.5 percent share.

**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* recently 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.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

**Members, Advocates Gear Up for Transit Lobby Day:** Transit advocates from all over the state are ready to descend on Sacramento this Wednesday for the Association's annual Transit Lobby Day. The event has historically included only members of the Association, but we've had unprecedented interest in this year's event, fueled by the recently-adopted state budget that eliminated the State Transit Assistance program. Our thanks to those who have signed on to participate, as well as to those who have promoted the event to audiences beyond our membership. An informational packet containing loads of talking points and supportive data was e-mailed to registrants on Friday. If you've yet to receive your packet, please contact Association Services Assistant Tuyen Truong via e-mail at [tuyen@caltransit.org](mailto:tuyen@caltransit.org). We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday!

**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 (Foothill Transit)** and **David Olmeda (San Mateo County Transit District)** sought to extend the model to a statewide forum, and thus the topic for our next webinar was selected. Look for more details later this week at [www.caltransit.org](http://www.caltransit.org).

**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](mailto:tuyen@caltransit.org)).



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