



Executive Director's Report

March 9, 2009

STATE UPDATE

Art Leahy Tapped to Head L.A. County Metro: Our congratulations go out to Art Leahy, who last week was officially named as the new CEO of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Since 2001, Art has served in the same capacity for Orange County Transportation Authority. His tenure there was highlighted by record ridership increases in both bus and rail transit, the overwhelming renewal of the Measure M half-cent sales tax for transportation, the purchase of express lanes to pave the way for improvements to the Riverside 91 Freeway, and the completion of the Garden Grove Freeway (SR-22) improvement project – Orange County's first design-build freeway project. With this move, Art's career comes full circle – 38 years ago, he was a bus driver in Los Angeles. Art replaces Roger Snoble, who announced his retirement last year. Roger thus ends a 43-year career in public service, including the last seven as Metro's CEO. Under his leadership, the agency garnered top national awards for excellence. He also played a key role in securing last fall's passage of Measure R, a new half cent sales tax that will fund a comprehensive package of new rail and bus and street and highway improvements in the county over the next 30 years. Again, our congratulations to Art and to Roger.

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.

Poll Says Transit Should Get Higher Priority: The results of a recent poll conducted by the National Association of Realtors and Transportation for America show that, by a margin of more than 2-to-1, Americans favor improved public transit over the construction of new roads and highways. The [2009 Growth and Transportation Survey](#) showed that, when asked what the federal government's top priority should be for 2009 transportation funding, a third favored "expanding and improving bus, rail, and other public transportation," compared to 16 percent who said "expanding and improving roads, highways, freeways and bridges." When asked about approaches to addressing traffic, 47 percent preferred improving public transportation, while 20 percent preferred building new roads. Fifty-six percent of those surveyed believe the federal government is not devoting enough attention to trains and light rail systems, and three out of four favor improving intercity rail and transit.

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Don't Miss Out on Transit Lobby Day: More than ever, it is critical that the transit community make its voice heard on the importance of maintaining funding for operations and capital expenditures on the state level. **Transit Lobby Day, scheduled for March 25**, is our first chance to inform Sacramento policymakers about the impact these budget cuts will have on public transit's ability to operate service in communities statewide. **Therefore, it is vital that all members of the Association participate in this year's annual event.** We will be making appointments with all 120 legislators, and representatives of Governor Schwarzenegger. [Click here TODAY](#) to register.

Membership Satisfaction Survey About to Close: We are currently conducting our annual Membership Satisfaction Survey. It's your opportunity to provide feedback regarding your perception of the benefits of membership and the performance of the Association on your behalf. Survey feedback will be summarized and reviewed by Association Staff and the Executive Committee, and will serve to enhance Association activities for 2009 and beyond. Please [click here](#) to complete this very brief survey. Please complete your survey responses by this Friday, March 13. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.



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