



Funding Update | October 1, 2009

California Supreme Court Rejects State's Appeal of Lower Court Ruling: Raids on Public Transportation Funding Are Illegal

Yesterday, the California Supreme Court rejected the Schwarzenegger Administration's appeal of a lower court ruling that annual raids on transit funding are illegal. By declining to accept the Petition for Review filed by state officials, the high court upheld the ruling of the Third District Court of Appeal that recent funding diversions from the Public Transportation Account violated a series of statutory and constitutional amendments enacted by voters via four statewide initiatives dating back to 1990. Click [here](#) to view the Association's press release.

Initiative Exploration Continues

Notwithstanding yesterday's victory regarding the California Supreme Court's decision, the Association, with guidance from its Executive Committee, will continue its exploration into pursuing a statewide initiative. The "mega" initiative, as it has been referred to, would be a collaborative effort of the California Transit Association, League of California Cities and the California Alliance for Jobs, to protect funding for transit, transportation, and local government.

Senate to Hold Informational Hearing on Transit Operations Funding

The Senate Transportation and Housing Committee will hold an informational hearing on November 10th which will look at funding options for transit operations. We view this opportunity as a product of your work in communicating with your legislators on this subject over the last several months to discuss the impacts of the lack of funding and an avenue for a solution. In addition, as a result of a recent series of informal dinner meetings with Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) the Assembly may also hold field hearings on this topic in the near future. Association staff will keep you apprised of the details as we receive more information about the Senate hearing and possible Assembly hearings.

Please contact Legislative and Regulatory Assistant Sabrina Means at sabrina@caltransit.org or call 916-446-4656 if you have any questions.