

SUMMARY MINUTES
MARKETING/ PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Those present at the meeting were:

Members: Directors Rob Schroder and Robert Storer
Staff: Rick Ramacier and Mary Burdick
Guest: Erling Horn, County Connection Board Chair, Ralph Hoffman

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the Minutes of January 10, 2013

The minutes were approved as presented.

2013 Federal Legislative Program

Rick Ramacier explained the nature of the legislative conference in Washington DC and how the program brochure is used in meetings with both representatives and staff aides. The current federal program, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP21) is in place until 2014, but this is when we typically begin talking about the next reauthorization to assure adequate funding is secured.

Mr. Ramacier explained key messages:

- Future federal investment must double in size over the next six years to meet capital needs and support ridership increases
- The ability to use federal formula funds for preventive maintenance and to maintain present levels of service.
- Metro Mobility programs funded from FHWA fund with equal access for suburban transit systems.
- Revise and increase funding in the Bus and Bus Facility Formula (5339) so each urbanized area receives a formula share-California operators typically fare better with formula programs than with the now defunct earmarks.

2013 State Legislation Program

Mr. Ramacier explained the key messages in the state program as:

- Fully fund State Transit Assistance (STA) by maintaining the sales tax on diesel fuel, and ensuring the funds are deposited in the Public Transit Account.
- Appropriate the highest level of Proposition 1B funds – these are typically matching funds for bus procurement, and if not fully appropriated capital projects could be at risk.
- Improve coordination between Non-Emergency Medical Transportation and public transit operators so that Medi-Cal recipients can take certain fixed-route transit trips and have their fares reimbursed, rather than making trips by more expensive means.
- Allow regional areas greater flexibility in seeking voter approval for additions taxes to support transit.

Legislation- AB160-Alejo

Rick Ramacier reported that this bill was introduced and seeks to exempt public transit employees in unions from the state pension reform (PEPRA). The claim is that PEPRA takes away the right to bargain over pension benefits. Unions are filing objections with the Department of Labor which could jeopardize the release of funds for federal

grants. However labor attorneys claim that PEPRA requires bargaining. Mr. Ramacier suggested County Connection remain neutral on this bill, but suggests we educate our state representatives on these issues and consequences.

Marketing Reports

- Pass sales for the 2nd quarter were discussed.
- Call center activity for the 2nd quarter was discussed.
- Website Activity for January was provided

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Walnut Creek office of Hansen Bridgett.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Mary Burdick
Manager of Marketing

Date 2/22/13