

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DATE: February 10, 2009
FROM: ^{XD} KEN GREHM / ROBERT BLASER
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONSENSUS PRINCIPLES ON
FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION FOR 2009

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of the California Consensus Principles on Federal Transportation Authorization for 2009 and authorize Chairman of the Board to submit letters of support.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

On September 30, 2009, the current federal transportation funding authorization bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) will expire. Through this authorization, California receives approximately \$5 billion annually for transit, local streets and roads, highways, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It is anticipated that Congress and the new administration will begin soon to work on the next authorization bill.

There will be challenges in replacing SAFETEA-LU. These include increasing revenues into the Highway Trust Fund, educating new staff in Congress and the Administration as to the issues affecting our infrastructure, the gravity of the situation, and the need to increase mobility and efficiency in our transportation networks.

Therefore, it is important that California be united on the issues that will affect our share of the new federal transportation funding. To accomplish this, stakeholders, including state and local transportation agencies, have developed a list of seven principles that should guide the next authorization. These Consensus Principles include:

1. Ensure the financial integrity of the Highway and Transit Trust Funds.
2. Rebuild and maintain transportation infrastructure in a good state of repair.
3. Establish goods movement as a national economic priority.
4. Enhance mobility through congestion relief within and between metropolitan areas.
5. Strengthen the federal commitment to safety and security, particularly with respect to rural roads and access.
6. Strengthen comprehensive environmental stewardship.
7. Streamline project delivery.

A position in support of these principles and the new authorization will assist Local and State leaders in advocating for a reauthorization bill that maximizes the benefits to California.

ENVIRONMENTAL

This action is not a project, as defined in Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is exempt from CEQA requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact at this time. However, lack of new federal transportation funding authorization could have a future adverse effect upon the County.

Attachments: Resolution

Attachment 1 - Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Letter

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of: **ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSENSUS PRINCIPLES ON FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION FOR 2009 & AUTHORIZE THE BOS CHAIRMAN TO SUBMIT LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Resol. No:.....

Ord. No:.....

First Reading:.....

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____

by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Chair, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2009, the current federal transportation funding authorization bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) will expire; and

WHEREAS, California receives approximately \$5 billion annually for transit, local streets and roads, highways, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities from SAFETEA-LU funding; and

WHEREAS, the current state of the economy has negatively impacted transportation revenues and brought the Highway Trust Fund to the brink of insolvency for the first time in its history; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration are expected to begin work immediately to replace SAFETEA-LU; and

WHEREAS, California desires to speak with one voice on the major issues that will affect its share of federal transportation funding; and

WHEREAS, these principles were developed by a group of statewide stakeholders representing State and local governments, the private sector, transportation providers and system users, and other organizations actively involved in transportation issues, and

WHEREAS, it is a statewide document; and

WHEREAS, these Consensus Principles are:

1. Ensure the financial integrity of the Highway and Transit Trust Funds.
2. Rebuild and maintain transportation infrastructure in a good state of repair.
3. Establish goods movement as a national economic priority.
4. Enhance mobility through congestion relief within and between metropolitan areas.
5. Strengthen the federal commitment to safety and security, particularly with respect to rural roads and access.
6. Strengthen comprehensive environmental stewardship.
7. Streamline project delivery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, endorses the California Consensus Principles on Federal Transportation Authorization for 2009 as presented by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency of the State of California, and that the Chairman (or designee's) be authorized to transmit this Resolution and any other letters of support, and speak on behalf of the County as may be needed to convey our support.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Department of Corporations
Department of Financial Institutions
California Highway Patrol
California Housing Finance Agency
Department of Housing & Community Development
Department of Managed Health Care
Department of Motor Vehicles



DALE E. BONNER
Secretary

Office of the Patient Advocate
Department of Real Estate
Office of Real Estate Appraisers
Office of Traffic Safety
Department of Transportation
California Film Commission
California Office of Tourism
Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank

BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

January 5, 2009

Mr. Jim Holmes
District 3 County Supervisor
Placer County Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

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Dear Supervisor Holmes:

I am writing to request your endorsement of the attached California Consensus Principles on Federal Transportation Authorization for 2009.

On September 30, 2009, the current federal transportation funding authorization bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA – LU) will expire. This six-year bill is the instrument by which California annually receives approximately \$5 billion in federal funding for transit, highways, local streets and roads, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It is expected that shortly after January 2009 the new Congress and Administration will start working on the next authorization bill.

Replacing SAFETEA – LU will be a challenging process for several reasons. The current state of the economy has, among other things, negatively impacted transportation revenues and brought the Highway Trust Fund to the brink of insolvency for the first time in its history. Changes in Congress and the Administration will require a significant effort to educate new staff on the issues and gravity of the situation. Congress will likely use a “clean sheet of paper” approach to this authorization, which will involve close scrutiny of existing programs and policies with an eye toward overhauling them to increase mobility, efficiency, and accountability. There are many viewpoints on options for the next authorization bill and multiple advocacy groups working at the national level.

Therefore, it will be extremely important that California speaks with one voice on the major issues that will affect its share of federal transportation funding. To achieve this objective, the California Department of Transportation has been working with a statewide stakeholder group for the past year

Mr. Jim Holmes
January 5, 2009
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to develop a consensus on seven principles that should underpin the next transportation authorization (see attached). In short, these principles are as follows:

1. Ensure the financial integrity of the Highway and Transit Trust Funds.
2. Rebuild and maintain transportation infrastructure in a good state of repair.
3. Establish goods movement as a national economic priority.
4. Enhance mobility through congestion relief within and between metropolitan areas.
5. Strengthen the federal commitment to safety and security, particularly with respect to rural roads and access.
6. Strengthen comprehensive environmental stewardship.
7. Streamline project delivery.

This document was developed with the active participation of stakeholders representing State and local governments, the private sector, transportation providers and system users, and other organizations actively involved in transportation issues. It is a statewide document, recognizing that each organization and locality will have its own specific emphasis and intentions for the next authorization, but overall, the framework described above represents the California Consensus on the starting point for the national discussion. The document is intended to provide guidance to California's large and diverse congressional delegation and to be shared with other national organizations to influence their platforms.

I am seeking your support to increase the strength behind this message we are sending to Congress and to help broaden its dissemination at the local, State, and national level. As of this writing, we have received the endorsement of over 25 organizations, including the Automobile Club of Southern California, California Association of Councils of Governments, California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities, Regional Council of Rural Counties, and several Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. Adding your organization's endorsement to this list will strengthen the message and ensure that California's transportation agenda is heard with a clarity that has never before occurred at the national level. Please call me at (916) 323-5400 if you need my assistance in the endorsement process or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DALE E. BONNER
Secretary

cc: Eric Swedlund, Deputy Director, Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Washington, D.C.
Will Kempton, Director, California Department of Transportation

Attachment

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