
AC TRANSIT DISTRICT**Board of Directors**

Executive Summary

GM Memo No. 09-231

Meeting Date: October 14, 2009

Committees:Planning Committee External Affairs Committee Rider Complaint Committee **Board of Directors** Finance and Audit Committee Operations Committee Paratransit Committee **Financing Corporation**

SUBJECT: Consider Recommending Approval of the District's State Advocacy Program for 2010**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only Briefing Item Recommended Motion**Recommend to the Board of Directors the Adoption of a State Advocacy Program for 2010**

Fiscal Impact: None**Background/Discussion:**

Each year the AC Transit Board of Directors adopts an advocacy program to provide guidance for the District's activities in Sacramento to influence transit legislation, appropriations, and administrative matters. The attached program for 2009-10 addresses on-going efforts as well as emerging issues for the coming year.

Prior Relevant Board Actions/Policies:

Annual adoption of federal and state advocacy programs

Attachments: AC Transit 2010 State Advocacy Program**Approved by:****Rick Fernandez, General Manager****Jim Gleich, Deputy General Manager****Kate Miller, Manager, Capital Development, Legislation, and Grants****Prepared by:****Kiran Bawa, Senior Capital Planning and Legislative Analyst****Date Prepared:****September 28, 2009**



2009-10 State Advocacy Program

Funding

- Support legislation that creates new sources for transit operating funds with equitable distribution to urban centers from sources including development fees, payroll taxes and expanding sales tax to include professional services.
- Support efforts to preserve Public Transportation Account funds exclusively for transit.
- Support legislation that would allow debt financing of State funded projects or other finance mechanisms that would accelerate project funding and delivery.
- Support legislation and programs that would provide funding for clean air and global warming initiatives.
- Support local ability to increase fees and gas taxes to be used for local mass transit purposes.
- Support legislation that would provide funding to implement AC Transit's Climate Action Plan.
- Support tax reform legislation and initiatives to protect and/or increase revenues for transit operations.
- Support legal efforts to retain State Transit Assistance funds.
- Support additional funding for AC Transit's fuel cell development program.
- Seek funding for Bus Rapid Transit.
- Support legislation that would increase AB 664 revenues to ensure adequate matching funds for eligible federally-funded transit projects.
- Support price congestion strategies and legislation that encourage an equitable multi-modal distribution of generated revenues.
- Support legislation that would exempt public transit providers from State sales tax.

- Support legislation to provide funding for AC Transit to enhance home-to-work transportation services for CalWORKS recipients.
- Support legislation to provide bus passes for low-income students within AC Transit's service area.
- Support efforts by community colleges to obtain authorization for students to pay for transit via student fees.
- Support legislation that would equitably distribute existing home-to-school transportation funds.
- Support legislation or administration action to remove State barriers to the use of Medicaid transportation funds for public transit services, including ADA paratransit services.
- Support legislation that would require Health and Human Service (HHS) agencies to work with transportation funding agencies to coordinate transportation services and to provide funding to public transit operators for transportation services to HHS clients.
- Seek funding for a common pass program that would provide transit user's access to both AC Transit and BART and other coordinated services for one cost.
- Support new funding from and greater flexibility with the California Emergency Management Agency for transit security programs.

Equipment and Operations

- Support legislation or administrative action that would direct Caltrans to establish and maintain HOV lanes on State highway routes.
- Support legislation to clarify existing law exempting public transit vehicles from local truck route ordinances.
- Support legislation to give transit agencies the authority to enforce ordinances that they adopt.
- Support legislation or administrative action that would direct Caltrans to permit permanent use of freeway shoulders by public transit buses.

- Support legislation that allows competitive bidding process threshold to increase from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for procurement of materials, supplies and equipment. Pending Governor's signature and will remove if signed into law.

Transit Incentives

- Support legislation to provide incentives for employees and employers to use public transportation to commute to work, including tax credits for purchasing transit passes.
- Support Clean Air Initiatives that encourage increased public transit use.
- Support incentives that would give auto insurance credits to heavy transit users.

Environment and Transit Supportive Land Use

- Advocate for transit-supportive legislation that mitigates Global Warming and/or calls for comprehensive environmental stewardship and related funding.
- Foster transit supportive land use initiatives that would allow transit providers to be included in the initial stages of local planning or project development that impacts transit, including density level decisions or transit oriented developments (TODs); and advocate for the required use of:
 - Transit streets agreements
 - Complete Streets plans in which local transportation plans anticipate use of all modes
- Support legislation that addresses climate change.
- Support legislation that promotes development and funding for alternative fuels.
- Support legislation that requires reporting of Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) annually through DMV renewal.
- Support legislation that minimizes the fiscal burden of mandatory regulations.

Policy Interests

- Support budget reform to require passage by majority vote.
- Seek direct representation on local transportation policy boards.
- Support lowering the 2/3 majority vote for local transportation ballot tax initiatives.
- Support Universal Health Care Program Legislation.
- Redefine agency as Rapid Transit District.
- Align the State's California Family Rights Act that with the Federal Family Medical Leave legislation to avoid conflicting requirements and non-concurrence issues.
- Advocate prevailing wage legislation for private, publicly funded shuttles at unionized paratransit wage.