

February 2017 Monthly Report for MTC



To: Steve Heminger, Executive Director MTC

From: Tom Bulger, President GRI

Date: February 28, 2017

Re: Monthly Report for February 2017

- **CalTrain Federal Funding**
- **MTC March Washington, D.C. Meetings**
- **Annual California Congressional Reception**
- **A Penny for Progress: A Proposal by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.)**
- **Federal Highway Vehicle to Infrastructure Guidance Retracted**
- **Meetings**
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CalTrain Federal Funding

In a February 17, 2017 letter to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, Mr. Mathew J. Welbes, Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Acting Administrator said that "FTA is deferring a decision on whether to execute a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA). Furthermore, this will allow the Project to be considered in conjunction with the development of the President's Fiscal Year (FY)2018 Budget and the companion FTA Report to Congress on Annual Funding Recommendations for Capital Investment Grant Program." The proposed FFGA would commit FTA totals \$647,000,000 in Capital Investment Grant Program Core Capacity funds in annual installments in the President's budget submissions to Congress through FY 2022, and subject to annual appropriations by Congress. The President's so called "Skinny Budget" is expected in mid-March. The full - blown Budget will not come out until May.

MTC March Washington, D.C. Meetings

The bulk of the Commission's Washington, D.C. meeting agenda has been completed. Meetings will occur on March 13th and March 14th. There is one meeting with Congresswoman Barba Lee (D-Calif.) early on the morning of March 15th.

Annual California Congressional Reception

With only two weeks before the Annual California Transportation Congressional Reception all the Reception details have been completed.

A Penny for Progress: A Proposal by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.)

The Penny for Progress proposal provides more than \$500 billion in infrastructure investment to improve the nation's highways, bridges, and public transit systems through FY 2030. To finance this additional investment the proposal authorizes the US Department of Treasury to issue 30-year Invest in America Bonds annually, through 2030. The bond would be repaid at the end of its 30-year term, using revenues from indexing the gasoline and diesel user fee beginning in 2017. On an annual basis, this additional infrastructure investment represents an approximately 35% increase over current funding levels. In addition, the proposal funds the shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund through 2030. Indexing the gasoline and diesel user fees is estimated to result in a 1 cent per year increase with an annual cap on indexing of 1.5 cents.

In March we will be meeting with the House Transportation and Infrastructure minority Staff who produced the Proposal.

Federal Highway Vehicle to Infrastructure Guidance Retracted

On February 14th the Federal Highway Administration retracted their Vehicle to Infrastructure Guidance per the President's January 20, 2017 Executive Order to suspend certain Federal Regulations.

Meetings

- Meeting with Andrew B. Fremier on February 13, 2017; and
- Meetings with Kevin McCarty, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Coming and Going

Adrea Turner named Director of Transportation at Transportation for America replacing James Corless.