

**2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

**GOAL #1: WORK TO PURSUE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES THAT PROMOTE INNOVATIVE FINANCING TOOLS THAT HELP ACCELERATE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

Proposed Activities:

Seek to adopt language in any tax reform legislation or infrastructure package that would create an America Fast Forward Transportation Bond Program or program that helps transit agencies leverage local funding to accelerate transit and highway projects. Concurrently, work to advance initiatives that would amend sections of the FAST Act, like the FASTLANES grant program, to dramatically expand its funding level, make it a multi-year grant program like the New Starts program and ensure that the program works for eligible P3 transit and highway projects. Securing new and innovative federal finance tools will permit our agency to accelerate the construction of key transit and highway/goods movement projects funded both under Measures R and M.

**GOAL #2: CONTINUE TO AGGRESSIVELY ADVANCE OUR EFFORT TO REFORM FEDERAL LOCAL HIRE RULES**

Proposed Activities:

Work with the incoming Trump Administration and key members of Congress to advocate for the continuation of the Local Hire Pilot Program begun by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2014. Parallel to this effort, Metro will work with Congresswoman Karen Bass and others to have language included in the Fiscal Year 2017 transportation appropriations bill to reform federal Local Hire rules. Our efforts in this regard will highlight studies that have shown that local hire programs do not compromise competition for transit and highway projects and procurements.

**GOAL #3: PROMOTE INCREASED FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN FREIGHT AND GOODS MOVEMENT PROJECTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Proposed Activities:

With the addition of two new grant programs in the FAST Act, one discretionary and one formula, which dedicate federal funding for projects that improve the movement of goods, Metro will work aggressively with our Congressional Delegation, the incoming Trump Administration as well as with key regional and national stakeholders to advocate for funding to move freight more efficiently across Los Angeles County. In

addition to the recently created FAST Act freight grant programs, Metro will also seek to secure additional federal funding for goods movement projects through other grant sources that can also be used on freight projects – for example – through the TIGER grant program.

**GOAL #4: WORK TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR METRO’S NEW STARTS PROJECTS AND ADVANCE OUR NON-NEW STARTS PROJECTS – GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION AND CRENSHAW/LAX TRANSIT PROJECTS**

Proposed Activities:

Work with our Congressional Delegation, transportation leaders in the House and Senate and the U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure the free flow of funds from Full Funding Grant Agreements and TIFIA loans for both the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway Extension. Parallel to this effort and as previously directed by our Board of Directors, we will continue to support seeking non-New Starts funds for the Gold Line Foothill Extension and Crenshaw/LAX transit projects. In addition, we will work to ensure that the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, among other federal agencies, continue to work cooperatively with our agency on issues related to bringing a rail connection to LAX.

**GOAL #5: ADVOCATE FOR REGULAR ORDER IN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

Proposed Activities:

Work with our Congressional Delegation and stakeholder organizations to advocate for the importance of debating and enacting annual appropriation bills that provide a full year of funding for transportation programs. Included in funding that is approved by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees is funding for the New Starts Grant program and the TIGER Grant Program. Both of these grant programs are funding outside of the Highway Trust Fund and are vitally important to advancing the transportation goals for Los Angeles County.

**GOAL #6: CONTINUE TO WORK WITH METROLINK AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES TO SUPPORT – AS NEEDED - THE APPLICATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL (PTC) TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND ADJOINING COUNTIES**

Proposed Activities:

Continue to work in close cooperation with U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Senator-elect Kamala Harris, members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, Metrolink, APTA and other key stakeholders to ensure that any federal

funding provided for Positive Train Control takes into consideration commuter rail lines that dedicated significant local funds to meet the new federally mandated PTC deadline of December, 2018.

## **GOAL #7: ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES**

Proposed Activities:

Work to secure federal funds to advance Metro's Transit-Oriented Communities policy;

Work to secure federal funds to enhance Metro's security program;

Work with Metro's regional partners to advance career education and training programs that will ensure the needed workforce to operate and maintain our transit system is ready and available;

Aggressively advocate for the renewal of the alternative fuels excise tax credit;

Work to extend the commuter tax benefit to remain at \$230 per month for transit users;

Work to ensure that the U.S. Department of Transportation clarifies that ferryboat miles between mainland Los Angeles and Catalina Island are counted for purposes of Los Angeles County's annual apportionment from the Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program (UAFP);

Work to advocate for all Metro discretionary grant applications;

Work closely with the Administration and USDOT on regulations and proposed rulemakings that impact Metro.