

Memorandum

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To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 27, 2015

Reference No.: 4.20
Information

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **UPDATE ON PUBLIC FORUMS ON TRANSPORTATION**

ISSUE:

The Commission in cooperation with regional transportation planning agencies and local business entities have been conducting transportation forums throughout the state. These forums commenced in May 2015 in Fresno, followed by Sacramento in June, Los Angeles in July, and subsequent to the issuance of this memo the Orange County and San Diego forums were concluded.

The goal of these forums are twofold: 1) provide information on transportation issues impacting the region and state and, 2) gather public input on the most important transportation-related issues impacting the community.

These public forums have been designed to provide an open meeting format attended by organizational representatives and individuals that might not normally attend Commission meetings, such as business organizations, social advocacy groups, and the general public. These forums are structured to provide the regional transportation agency and the local business organizations a seat at the table to present their perspectives on the local/regional/state transportation issues that impact their communities, along with representatives from the Commission and Caltrans to provide an overview of statewide transportation issues, allowing for a significant amount of time for an open dialogue with the public.

Following are some specifics related to each of the forums held prior to issuance of this memo, and staff will provide an oral overview of the Orange County and San Diego forums at the Commission meeting.

Fresno Forum – May 27, 2015

- Co-Sponsors
 - San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies
 - Fresno Chamber of Commerce
 - Fresno Economic Development Corporation
- Presenters
 - Commissioner Darius Assemi
 - Brian Kelly, CalSTA
 - Will Kempton
 - Norma Ortega, Caltrans
 - Tony Boren, Fresno Council of Governments
 - Ahron Hakimi, San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies

- Debbie Hunsaker, Fresno Chamber of Commerce
- Lee Ann Eager, Fresno Economic Development Corporation
- Attendance ≈ 75
- Overview of comments received:
 - Being able to transport goods from the Valley to the Ports is very important.
 - Delays in the transportation system cost businesses time and money
 - Need to ensure transportation funding goes towards transportation projects.
 - The state needs to be more efficient in delivering transportation projects.
 - Truckers could reduce the number of trips if higher weights were allowed on trucks.
 - The difficulty some Valley cities may experience in deciding to reduce the number of vehicle lanes in order to build bike lanes when bike riders constitute a very small number of trips. The Valley is not like other communities such as Portland, Oregon with a high percentage of bike trips.

Sacramento Forum – June 24, 2015

- Co-Sponsors
 - Sacramento Area Council of Governments
 - Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Presenters
 - Commissioner Jim Earp
 - Assembly member Jim Frazier
 - Will Kempton
 - Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans
 - Don Saylor, Sacramento Area Council of Governments
 - Sharon Scherzinger, El Dorado County Transportation Commission
 - Celia McAdam, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency
 - Chris Worden, Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce
 - Eric Sauer, California Trucking Association
- Attendance ≈ 100
- Overview of comments received:
 - Need to ensure any new transportation funding is only available for transportation purposes.
 - Fix-it-First a priority in the region.
 - Need to split new funding between local and state needs.
 - Need to balance AB 32 goals and the need to raise revenues.
 - Moving people and goods throughout the region is critical to a vibrant economy.
 - Lowering the voter threshold for the passage of regional tax measures for transportation is needed to assist the aspiring counties to raise revenues for critical infrastructure needs.
 - Bundling linear projects, such as roads and highways with broadband, should be considered during project planning stages. This could reduce the cost to the state through the partnership with private sector.
 - Need to provide alternative project delivery methods to streamline the process.

Los Angeles Forum – July 29, 2015

- Co-Sponsors
 - Southern California Association of Governments

- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- Presenters
 - Commissioner Fran Inman
 - Commissioner Yvonne Burke
 - Will Kempton
 - Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans
 - Alan Wapner, Southern California Association of Governments
 - Stephanie Wiggins, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Association
 - Darren Kettle, Ventura County Transportation Commission
 - Ruben Gonzalez, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
 - Michael Christensen, Port of Long Beach
 - David Libatique, Port of Los Angeles
- Attendance ≈ 100
- Overview of comments received:
 - Need to increase velocity and reliability through the ports.
 - Any new transportation funding must be protected.
 - Integration of land use and transportation through planning is critical.
 - Need more staff and funding to maintain our existing system.
 - Need more funding to ensure the safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Non-traditional methods to reducing congestion need to be considered.
 - How can we make HOV & HOT lanes more efficient?
 - Is road charging the long term solution or is there some other mechanism/legislation to solve this issue?