

TRAC E-Bulletin #12-02

Type: GAINING HIGH VISIBILITY

Source: TRAC SAC-SUD OUTPOST RIVERSIDE

TRAC Members & Associates--

ITEM 1: I'm pleased to introduce Anna Marie Stean-Mann as TRAC's new Administrative Director. Her dedication for improved public transportation started 8 years ago – when she led the efforts to subsidize bus service for Community College students in Humboldt County. Since then she has graduated from UC Davis with a Community and Regional Development Degree, studied public transportation systems in Germany, and has worked for WALKSacramento, the California Transportation Commission, and most recently for the California Strategic Growth Council. Her dedication for better trains, along with her organization/outreach skills will benefit TRAC greatly in the coming year

ITEM 2: BOARD MEMBERS GORDON OSMUNDSON & RICH TOLMACH VISIT KEY LEGISLATORS 24 JANUARY 2012 (SCHEDULE BELOW)

0930 LETICIA GARCIA FOR SEN ALAN LOWENTHAL S27

1000 ROBERT SMITH FOR ASM SHANNON GROVE A32

1100 CHERYL MCLACHLAN FOR SEN JEAN FULLER S18

1215 BECKY DE LA ROSA FOR LUIS ALEJO A28

1300 CAMERON HEGGI FOR SEN TOM BERRYHILL S14

1400 ELIZABETH WATSON CD FOR ASM DAVID VALADAO A30

1500 ERIC DANG CD FOR ASM FIONA MA A12

1600 JONATHAN ARAMBEL (x 2204) FOR ASM HENRY PEREA A31

Visits were well received and featured open and frank discussions of the High Speed Rail Authority and some problems pointed out in the California Rail News. President Bob Reynolds is working an addition visit list for 2 February. TRAC members are invited to contact their legislators and express their views (even if they are different from the CRN). As always, your feedback is solicited.

ITEM 3:

Come get an update on Caltrain's financial future and modernization plan

Caltrain ridership has continued to grow steadily over the last 16 months, improving "farebox recovery" and reducing the annual operating subsidy needed. But Caltrain's underlying structure remains unstable.

On Thursday, February 2, come join Friends of Caltrain for an update on legislative options for Caltrain funding from Assembly Member Jerry Hill, and an update on Caltrain's modernization plan with Program Director Marian Lee. The event is at 7pm at the Menlo Park Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 701 Laurel Street, Elm Room.

Proposed fare increase for paper tickets

Caltrain is proposing to eliminate 8-ride discount tickets and to raise fares on paper tickets. The 8-ride tickets, which are available on Clipper cards only, offer a 15% discount off the regular one way fares. The Caltrain board will be making a decision on the proposal on Thursday, Feb 2, at 10am, at 1250 San Carlos Ave in San Carlos near the Train Station.

San Francisco Updates

A couple of updates of particular interest to Caltrain riders in San Francisco:

Supervisor Malia Cohen is joining the Caltrain Joint Powers Board representing San Francisco. You can welcome her at malia.cohen@sfgov.org, 415-554-7670

The contract for bike parking at 4th and King in San Francisco is up for renewal. While Warm Planet Bikes has been able to operate without subsidy for a year, the growing demand for bike parking has caused the space for revenue-generating retail to shrink. An RFP requiring no subsidy was withdrawn last fall, and a new RFP will be re-issued. Do you value bike parking at 4th and King? Please share your thoughts with the Joint Powers Board by email board@caltrain.com.

Hat Tip to Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain

ITEM 4: House to introduce five-year, \$260 billion highway bill

By Keith Laing - 01/25/12 02:07 PM ET

The new federal highway bill that will be taken up by the House of Representatives next week will be a five-year, \$260 billion proposal, a House Transportation Committee aide said Thursday.

The vote on the measure, which funds the Federal Highway Administration and authorizes the collection of the federal gas tax, among other things, will take place a week from Thursday, according to the aide. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-Fla.) said in a statement released by his office that the measure would take a different approach than the one that was outlined by President Obama in the State of the Union address Tuesday night.

“America needs to rebuild its infrastructure, but I do not support what appears to be the president’s plan to finance that effort by downsizing the military,” Mica said in the statement. “Next week Republicans will introduce a long-stalled major transportation measure — killed two years ago by the president — that will be financed in part by increased American energy production, creating jobs and lowering energy costs,” he continued.

In his remarks to lawmakers Tuesday night, Obama suggested a different course. “Take the money we're no longer spending at war, use half of it to pay down our debt, and use the rest to do some nation-building right here at home,” Obama said in the State of Union, his third since taking office.

Lawmakers have debated a renewal of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which expired in 2009, for the better part of two years. While they debated, members of the House and Senate approved eight short-term extensions of the last highway bill, including the most recent extension, which passed last fall and is set to expire March 31.

The Democratically-controlled Senate has suggested it would move forward with a two-year, \$109 billion surface transportation bill.

Both proposals are far less than the six-year, \$556 billion the president called for spending on transportation last year.

—Kevin Bogardus contributed to this report.