

**MOBILITY 21 Coalition Votes To Support Efforts To Maximize Federal  
Transportation Dollars**

The Mobility 21 Coalition approved several resolutions at its March 3, 2004 meeting to support efforts to maximize funding included in the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) reauthorization bill currently under consideration by Congress and the 2005 federal Transportation Appropriations bill. Three separate versions of the TEA-21 reauthorization bill are being debated that include funding levels ranging from \$256 billion to \$375 billion over a six-year period.

The original TEA-21 funding legislation expired on Sept. 30, 2003, but has been extended twice, with the latest deadline now April 30, 2004.

The Mobility 21 Coalition is a countywide nonpartisan organization of transportation stakeholders and representatives and includes more than 500 businesses, transportation providers, nonprofits, environmental groups, transportation users and labor officials.

The Coalition approved supporting efforts already underway to end the loss of federal funding to the Highway Trust Fund caused by preferential tax treatment for gasohol and diversion of revenues collected for ethanol fuels. This will result in a \$800-850 million annual loss in transportation revenues for California. The resolution also call for states to maintain their authority to continue funding local projects under another TEA-21 extension. In addition, the coalition voted to support efforts to secure funding in TEA-21 reauthorization for regional projects including:

- Los Angeles Eastside light rail transit project
- Alameda Corridor East construction improvements
- Mid-City/Exposition Boulevard light rail project
- MTA bus and rail capital improvements
- I-5 HOV Improvements from Route 134 to Route 170
- I-405 Northbound HOV lanes from the I-10 to US 101
- Addition of 1 mixed flow and 1 HOV lane on the I-5 from Rosemead to Orange County
- I-10 HOV lanes from I-605 to Route 57
- MTA Green Line – airport people mover/flyaway system expansion with remote baggage check in
- Funding for Metrolink projects including track improvements on the 91/Inland Empire/Orange County lines; parking and station improvements on the San Bernardino Line and parking and electronic message signs at intermodal stations
- I-710 Gateway program (Gerald Desmond bridge replacement and highway improvement)

The coalition also voted to support the FY 2005 Transportation Appropriations requests from several transportation agencies and providers in Los Angeles, including the Alameda Corridor East, Los Angeles World Airports, Metro, Metrolink, ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and Los Angeles County municipal operators. Projects the group will advocate support for include

- \$80 million in funding for East Los Angeles transit corridor light-rail project; and
- \$10.6 million for right-of-way capital and right-of-way support for I-5 HOV improvements from Route 134 to Route 170; and

- \$7.5 million for environmental studies for I-5 (add one mixed flow lane and one HOV lane from Rosemead (I-605) to Orange County line); and
- \$2 million for the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium for training and planning funds to evaluate existing transit maintenance training and initiate curriculum development with community colleges; and
- \$7 million in 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities funding for Municipal Transit Operators Coalition (Commerce, Culver City, Gardena, Montebello, Norwalk, Santa Monica, and Torrance); and
- \$18.4 million for Metrolink track, platform, and station improvements, electronic message signs, ITS, grade crossings, and homeland security projects; and
- \$20 million for Alameda Corridor East projects, including funding for railroad crossing grade separations in Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and La Mirada; and
- \$51 million for Port of Los Angeles projects, including \$21.5 Million for the 110 Freeway/SR 47/Harbor Boulevard Interchange Improvement and \$29.5 Million for the Mormon Island Transportation Access Improvements; and
- \$12 million in FHWA funds for Port of Long Beach for Gerald Desmond bridge replacement project;

Members of the Coalition will travel to Washington, D.C. May 15 through 19 to meet with federal lawmakers to advocate in support of these measures. For more information, please refer to the following resolutions: Resolution on TEA-21 Reauthorization; FY 2005 Appropriations Request; Eastside Light Rail Full Funding Grant Agreement.

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