



MOBILITY-21

LA County Moving Together MOBILITY-21 Coalition No. 2003-01 January 22, 2003

2003 State Budget Impacts on Transportation

Description: Resolution endorsing efforts to balance the state budget with minimal effects on transportation resources and efforts to provide increased revenue to transportation.

WHEREAS, The state budget is projected to experience a deficit of up to \$34 Billion; and

WHEREAS, The State Highway Account is projected to experience shortfalls of over \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS, These circumstances have created unprecedented challenges to the ability to fund transportation projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, The state is seeking to utilize transportation funds to balance the budget; and

WHEREAS, The challenges to transportation funding have rarely been greater as the Governor has proposed reductions in funding for the Traffic Congestion Relief Program; and

WHEREAS, Reductions in funding for transportation projects will result in stagnation in the economy through lost opportunities for economic development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, Serious efforts are underway to address the overall structural problem of the state's financial system and these efforts should be supported so that the impact to transportation resources can be minimized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The MOBILITY-21 Coalition:

In response to the state budget deficit, supports efforts to balance the state budget with minimal effects on transportation resources and supports efforts to provide increased revenue to transportation.

Supports a resolution on the State Budget deficit that embodies the following principles:

1. Long term and immediate preservation and protection of transportation funds, including Proposition 42, State Highway Account revenues, and other funds, including repayment of loans and suspensions.
2. Preservation of funds for Los Angeles County transportation projects.
3. Establishment of priority for projects that are ready to be implemented.
4. Explore additional statewide revenues that would offset any reductions in transportation funding. Revenue options may include, but are not limited to:
 - A temporary or permanent increase in the state gas tax.
 - Authorization for specified local transportation agencies to impose user fees for transportation.
 - Ensuring that existing, and any new transportation funds are not transferred to, or used for, other purposes.
5. Support reduction of the voter threshold for passage of local transportation sales taxes and explore an increase in the Los Angeles County transportation sales tax in order to fund additional transportation projects.
6. Support legislation or administrative actions that enhance the state's ability to support the TCRP projects and programs and provides funding priority to projects that are in the more advanced stages of project development.

THAT this resolution shall be widely circulated to all interested parties to include the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation, the Governor, members of the California legislature, California Transportation Commission, the cities within the County, the media and others.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MOBILITY-21 COALITION, this 22nd day of January 2003.