

# VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 2011 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

## STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### A. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

- Support efforts to maintain transportation funding, including State Transit Assistance (STA), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and Proposition 1A and 1B, as the impacts of the simultaneous passage of Proposition 22 and 26 on the fuel tax swap are being sorted out through the budget process and possibly litigation.
- Support the continued ability of regions to set priorities as set forth in SB 45, and oppose any efforts to lessen regional agencies' jurisdiction over the regional program within the State Transportation Improvement Program.
- Support continuation of the Safe Routes to Schools program.
- Support increased funding for bike and pedestrian facilities and bus transit.

### B. RAIL PROGRAM

- Work with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) and its member agencies to advocate for the State to meet its commitments of Proposition 1A and 1B high speed rail funds for the implementation of Positive Train Control.
- Support funding for high speed rail feeder projects, funded through Proposition 1A, to benefit passenger rail through Ventura County.
- Support legislation as needed based on the upcoming planning for LOSSAN Corridor reorganization/consolidation, while ensuring the state's commitment to fund intercity rail service is continued at current levels.

### C. PLANNING

- Participate with other Southern California regional agencies to incorporate regional needs as appropriate in clean-up legislation for SB 375, the law requiring regional transportation and land use planning to address global climate change.
- Maintain communication with the Legislature on the status of efforts to prepare the 2012 submittal of the Commission recommendations for use of Transportation Development Act funds in Ventura County as called for by SB 716.
- Support Transportation Demand Management measures to reduce auto trips, including facilitation of technology, such as telecommuting, videoconferencing, and smart utility meters.
- Monitor legislation to broaden eligibility for use of High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes or High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes beyond multiple-occupant vehicles, and vehicles paying tolls in the case of HOT lanes.
- Work in coordination with other transit operators to obtain greater vehicle code flexibility to allow installation of bus bicycle racks holding up to three bicycles.

## **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

- Participate in discussions regarding SAFETEA-LU reauthorization, supporting the California Consensus Principles (previously adopted by VCTC), and working with other Southern California transportation agencies to advocate for more specific regional priorities.
- Support authorization earmarks for Route 101/23 interchange improvements and a new Gold Coast Transit operations facility.
- Support an increased transportation appropriation as part of the FY 2011 and FY 2012 federal budget, while monitoring and supporting as appropriate possible solutions to the impending insolvency of federal transportation accounts.
- Advocate for further Federal action in support of rail safety, including significant funding to facilitate compliance with the Positive Train Control mandate.
- Support continuation of federal programs and funding, such as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), which provide special benefits to Ventura County. In particular, support continuation of the eligibility of transit operating demonstration projects for CMAQ funds.
- Work to ensure that any climate change legislation that establishes a "cap and trade" program includes a substantial set aside for transit.
- Support continuation of the delegation to Caltrans of responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and broadening of the delegation to California for additional transportation projects.