

Smith, Watts & Hartmann, LLC.

Consulting and Governmental Relations

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Cunningham

FROM: Mark Watts

DATE: October 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

Special Session

Recent hearing

On Wednesday the Special Session Conference committee met in Ontario to conduct the second of their hearings.

Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez and Senator Beall testimony on the state's transportation infrastructure needs was taken from a wide range of stakeholders, including several city and county officials, the construction industry and labor.

One key development was in response to an observation made by AM Olberholte that there is an inherent conflict between the state goals to reduce gas consumption and the proposals that would increase taxes on fuels. The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) indicated they are developing an assessment to be shared with the committee that will investigate how differing fuel scenarios will play out and whether they remain suitable as a platform for funding transportation.

In addition, several committee members again expressed interest in ensuring that funding will be made available for transit.

Following an in depth discussion into the truck weight fee issue, which the co-chairs stated compels legislators to understand the cross-cutting implications related to the state's budget, Assemblymember Olberholte inquired about an approach that would see some current transit funding swapped out and backfilled with cap and trade funds. The LAO responded by indicating they will be looking into strategies that repurpose funds.

On Thursday, I accompanied the co-chairs to a meeting with the editorial board at the LA Times. It was a positive presentation and the Times was receptive and will likely step up and again write a

supportive opinion piece when the committee reaches a point where they could take action.

Next Steps

Although no additional hearing has been scheduled yet, given that the LAO will be providing additional analytical materials related to the topics discussed above, it is a strong likelihood. In the meantime, the Administration has indicated they will continue their outreach to conferees and the leaders of the four legislative caucuses.

Iron Horse Trail

On October 16, Supervisor Anderson, accompanied by Julie Bueren, Carrie Ricci and myself, met with Secretary Brian Kelly and CTC Executive Director Will Kempton to discuss the status of the Iron Horse Trail grants and their restrictions, made in the mid-80s. These were very positive sessions, with a strong willingness indicated to updating the grants to focus on preservation of the trail corridor for Active Transportation purposes.

The county staff “take-away” from these meetings indicated that the following actions would need to be taken:

- Provide an updated accounting of the expenditure of grant funds.
- Obtain user data from EBRPD on the trail corridor to better understand the potential for preservation of the corridor for Active Transportation purposes.
- Develop a concept for the corridor to enhance it as an Active Transportation Corridor.
- Discuss concept with EBRPD.