

AGENDA: September 1, 2005

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Comprehensive Transportation Funding Task Force

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Formally establish, by resolution (Attachment 1), the Transportation Funding Task Force;
 2. Hear an oral report from Fred Keeley and Eileen Goodwin on Task Force membership and approve the final Task Force membership list (Attachment 2) with the addition of staff representatives from the Transit District and five local jurisdiction Departments of Public Works as ex-officio members to provide expert information;
 3. Provide input on a process for identifying the two appointments to be made by the RTC -- a representative from the Land Use Development Community and a Commuter-At-Large;
 4. Direct staff to return to a future meeting with recommendations regarding the overall timing, work plan, budget and meeting format for the Transportation Funding Task Force; and
 5. Indicate interest in attending the Focus on the Future Conference in San Francisco October 16-18.
-

BACKGROUND

At the August meeting, the RTC approved the proposal put forth by a subcommittee of the Commission to establish a Comprehensive Transportation Funding Task Force comprised of more than 60 members with the goal of developing general agreement regarding priority regional transportation projects and local funding strategies.

Specifically, the RTC approved requesting that Fred Keeley, the County's Tax Collector, convene the meetings and he agreed to do so. The RTC also directed staff to return to the RTC in October with a recommended budget and amendment to the contract with Eileen Goodwin for consultant assistance this project. The RTC also approved that the first Task Force meeting occur in October.

DISCUSSION

The RTC directed staff to return to today's meeting with a resolution formally establishing the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Task Force. Attached is the resolution (Attachment 1). The resolution establishes the broad-based task force and includes the requirement that a final plan must be approved by a 2/3 or more vote of the Task Force. **Staff recommends that the RTC approve this resolution.**

Also at the August meeting, the RTC reviewed the proposed membership list for the Transportation Funding Task Force and made changes. At that meeting, a wide range of groups was discussed. The attached list reflects staff's best efforts to record the final list of groups included in the final motions and amendments (Attachment 2).

Although not previously discussed, staff recommends that staff representatives from each of the five local jurisdiction's (4 cities and county) Departments of Public Works and the Transit District be invited to participate in the Task Force in an ex-officio capacity. This will enable the Task Force to have questions answered by knowledgeable agency staff.

Staff has had an initial meeting with Fred Keeley and Eileen Goodwin to discuss overall work plan, budget, meeting format, and timing issues. After your action today, we will continue these discussions. It is clear at this time that the first meeting of the Task Force will not be held in October, as directed by the RTC. We will return to the RTC in October with recommendations.

Fred Keeley and Eileen Goodwin will be present at your meeting today to address the RTC.

RTC Appointees

Per the membership list for the Transportation Funding Task Force, the RTC is responsible for appointing a representative from the land use development community and a commuter-at-large. For both positions, the RTC could either nominate someone who has participated in past transportation discussions, or solicit applications for the two positions and select the member at a future meeting. **Staff seeks input from the RTC on the appointment process for the land use development community and commuter at large positions.**

Budget and Funding

As noted in the August report, there is a balance of \$30,000 in Eileen Goodwin's contract from her assistance on the November 2004 Expenditure Plan. An amendment will be needed to augment her contract for the remainder of this fiscal year. Additional funds could also be needed for polling, focus groups, meeting room costs, refreshments, Community Television coverage, printing and advertising. Overall expenditure and funding needs will be discussed at the September Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting, with recommendations to the RTC to follow.

Focus on the Future

The annual conference of Self Help Counties will be held October 16-18 in San Francisco. This meeting is attended by elected officials, high level agency staff and consultant experts. An agenda is not yet available for this conference but conference staff have indicated that it will probably include sessions regarding communication of transportation needs, agency roles, cost calculating, project delivery and 2006 election measures. The bulk of the on-site sessions appear to be grouped on Monday and Tuesday mornings through lunch. A flyer for the conference is attached (Attachment 3). The conference registration cost is \$415. **Staff requests input from Commissioners interested in attending the event.**

SUMMARY

The RTC is requested to formally establish, by resolution, a comprehensive Transportation Funding Task Force, approve the membership, provide input on the process for determining the RTC appointments from the land use development community and commuter-at-large positions and indicate interest in attending the Focus on the Future Conference.

Attachments: 1. Resolution to form the Transportation Funding Task Force
2. Proposed Membership of the Transportation Funding Task Force
3. Flyer for 2005 Focus on Future Conference