

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: George Dondero, Executive Director
RE: Bonding Workshop

This item is for information only

Background

Once the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) delivers and expenditure plan to the Commission, a ballot measure is taken to the voters and passed by a 2/3 majority, and the funds begin to flow, the Regional Transportation Commission will face significant responsibilities to plan the financing of major projects. This is typically done through the bonding process. Staff has invited Robert McCleary, executive Director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, to share some knowledge and experience on this critical aspect of the funding program. Bob is recognized statewide among the Self-Help Counties (those with a local transportation sales tax in place) as a seasoned expert in this arena.

Discussion

In 2006, Contra Costa passed Measure J, a 25-year extension of their existing Measure C, which was passed in 1988. The measure was estimated to generate \$1 billion over 20 years for a BART extension, freeway improvements, better bus service, enhanced bicycle facilities and more transportation options for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority was formed to manage this billion-dollar public investment, oversee the design and construction of new projects, and carry out what would be the county's first Growth Management Program. Measure C also included a provision unique among other sales tax measures throughout the state—a program to link planning for growth and development with transportation. The Growth Management Program has fostered a spirit of cooperation among the cities and county in terms of working through issues related to new development and transportation.