

COMMITTEE ON MASS TRANSPORTATION

Members:

Commissioners McKenna, Tavaglione, Torres

Staff:

Robert Chung, CTC Deputy Director

Mission:

The Committee on Mass Transportation will consider issues related to the movements of people (and goods) within urban areas, between cities and between rural communities. The Committee will consider future trends; directions and funding issues; operational issues; transit choices; and access issues. The Committee will also consider land use, such as transit-oriented development, and its relationship to mass transportation.

Charter:

The Committee on Mass Transportation will serve as the Commission's committee on overarching rail and mass transportation matters. The Committee will serve as the Commission's focus in the mass transportation arena, provide leadership on rail-related matters, including high-speed and freight rail, and mass transit matters. Further, the Committee will pass its findings regarding proposed legislation on rail and mass transit matters to the Commission's Planning Committee and the Streets and Highway Committee, so that the Commission may consider recommendations for rail and mass transit matters at the state and federal levels. Lastly, the Committee may request the Department, other state agencies, or local agencies to provide information or report on items of interest.

The Committee intends to:

- provide advice on legislation that should be considered at the state and federal levels on rail and transit matters.
- consider the existing mass transportation system and what can be done to improve and to fund that system by making recommendations regarding legislation.
- consider the interconnectivity between rail and transit systems, as well as the rest of the transportation system, including the technology available for implementation.
- consider the inter-relationship between land use and mass transportation and what can be done to improve that relationship, as well as passing its findings on funding and legislation to the Planning Committee and the Streets and Highway Committee.
- assess the effectiveness of intercity rail and transit performance standards relating to issues such as measuring farebox recovery, increasing ridership, on-time performance, and marketing. Recommend changes for intercity rail, while fiscal discipline is maintained, to attract more ridership and increase revenues.
- assess public private partnerships and ways that can further the synergistic impact between mass transportation and development.
- assess ways that the State, Amtrak, commuter rail agencies, and the railroads can improve the existing rail transportation systems, while improving freight and passenger service equally.

2003 Work Plan For The Committee on Mass Transportation

1. State Legislation

- Presentations by transit and rail agencies on proposed state legislation.
- Committee consideration and recommendations to CTC regarding proposed legislation.

2. Federal legislation

- Presentations by transit and rail agencies on proposed federal legislation.
- Updates on proposed federal legislation by Amtrak and Caltrans.
- Committee consideration and recommendations to CTC regarding proposed legislation.

3. Modal issues

High-speed rail

- Presentation on high-speed rail authority.
- Presentation on proposed high-speed rail corridor and project, should rail bond pass in 2004.
- Discussion of high-speed rail inter-connectivity with airports and regional rail.
- Discussion of high-speed rail as a competitor with airlines.
- Discussion on proposed shift of HSRA to Caltrans, pros and cons.
- Comment on draft HSR EIR.

Intercity Rail Issues

- Discussion of institutional arrangements between Amtrak and State. What should be changed?
- Discussion of current funding categories in the overall transportation funding account.
- Discussion of Performance Standards.
- Discussion of Amtrak model assumptions used to generate projected ridership and farebox.
- Discussion of White Paper on intercity rail.

Mass Transportation Issues

- Presentation on transit issues.
- Discussion of operational funding for existing and expanded service.
- Discussion of funding and rehabilitation of systems and vehicle fleet.
- Discussion of available advance technologies and funding sources.
- Discussion of land use and transit inter-relationship.
- Discussion of Air Quality Conformity and transit.
- Discussion of White Paper on transit.

A. Outcomes of 2003 Work Plan

Committee recommendations on:

State Legislation: relating to intercity rail and mass transportation regarding funding for:

- operations.
- rehabilitation of the rail transit and bus transit systems and vehicles.
- costs of maintenance and operations.

Federal Legislation: relating to intercity rail and mass transportation regarding:

- TEA-21 re-authorization.
- Amtrak re-authorization.

Modal Issues: relating to:

- high-speed rail and its competitiveness with air travel.
- high-speed rail and the upcoming 2004 high-speed rail bond.

- intercity rail, its institutional arrangements with Amtrak, performance standards, and funding programs.
- passenger service and goods movement and the interface between intercity, commuter, and freight rail.
- transit issues, operational funding for service, rehabilitation of the system and vehicle fleet, and air quality conformity.
- the White Papers on intercity rail and transit.

Proposed Work Plan with Dates for Issues

February 2003

- Review and approval of Committee Charter.
- Review and approval of 2003 Work Plan.
- Review and approval of proposed meeting dates and times.
- Committee consideration and recommendations.

April 2003

- Presentations by transit and rail agencies on proposed federal and state legislation.
- Presentation on high-speed rail authority.
 - Discussion on proposed shift of HSRA to Caltrans, pros and cons.
 - Discussion of high-speed rail inter-connectivity with airports and regional rail.
 - Discussion of high-speed rail as a competitor with airlines.
 - Presentation on proposed high-speed rail corridor and project, should rail bond pass in 2004.
- Committee consideration and recommendations.

May 2003

- Discussion of White Paper on transit.
- Presentation on transit issues.
 - Discussion of operational funding for existing and expanded service.
 - Discussion of funding and rehabilitation of systems and vehicle fleet.
 - Discussion of available advance technologies and funding sources.
 - Discussion of land use and transit inter-relationship.
- Committee consideration and recommendations.

June 2003

- Update on proposed federal legislation by Amtrak and Caltrans.
- Update on proposed state legislation.
- Discussion of White Paper on intercity rail.
 - Discussion of current funding categories in the overall transportation funding account.
- Committee consideration and recommendations.

August 2003

- Discussion of Amtrak model and assumptions used to generate projected ridership and farebox.
- Discussion of intercity rail Performance Standards.
- Discussion of institutional arrangements between Amtrak and State. What should be changed?
- Committee consideration and recommendations.

September 2003

- Update on state and federal legislation.
- Comment on draft High Speed Rail Authority EIR.

October 2003

- Proposed 2004 Work Plan.
- Presentation on transit issues.
 - Discussion of Performance Standards.
 - Discussion of Air Quality Conformity and transit.
- Committee consideration and recommendations.

December 2003

- Final 2004 Work Plan.
- Committee consideration and recommendations.