

SUBJECT*2017 Legislative Program***RECOMMENDED ACTION***This is an Information Item***BACKGROUND**

Long Beach Transit's (LBT) staff works at the local, state and federal levels to protect and enhance funding and advance goals that are important to LBT's provision of daily service for its customers. In addition to its own advocacy efforts, LBT works closely with both the California Transit Association (CTA) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), LBT's industry trade associations, to help advance common goals at the state and federal levels.

Each year, staff develops a legislative work program to help guide advocacy efforts for the year. The program is meant to serve as a strategic document, providing general directions for staff activities and allowing the flexibility to pursue unanticipated legislative and administrative opportunities that may present themselves during the course of the year.

Recap of 2016 Legislative Activities

The 2016 Legislative Program included a number of issues at the local, state and federal levels. The summary below highlights a few key efforts:

With over a 70 percent approval, Los Angeles (LA) County residents voted to tax themselves through Measure M, the LA County Traffic Improvement Plan. Beginning in July 2017, the countywide Plan for the new half-cent sales tax includes easing traffic congestion, expanding rail, repaving streets and roads, making public transportation more accessible and enhancing local and regional bus service to improve system connectivity. LBT is expected to receive its formula share of funding from this new sales tax. Over the coming months, LBT staff will be developing recommendations that are aligned with the goals of the Plan, as well as LBT's Strategic Priorities.

LBT participated in the ongoing implementation of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the long-term surface transportation bill that established funding levels and federal policy for the nation's highways and public transit systems for fiscal years 2016 through 2020. In conjunction with APTA and CTA, staff participated in a number of meetings with Congressional Members, staff and Obama Administration officials to provide feedback and offer suggestions for future regulatory reform.

At the state level, LBT worked to increase the flexibility of Cap and Trade Programs available for public transit, though legislation amending the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. LBT staff also continued to advocate for new funding for transit agencies as the Governor and Legislature worked through a Special Session on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2017 Legislative Program Highlights

The 2017 Legislative Program was created in conjunction with the CTA and APTA's Legislative Programs. The program was also designed in support of LBT's Strategic Priorities:

- Improve Safety and Service Quality
- Exercise Financial Accountability
- Foster Employee Engagement
- Enhance Customer Experience
- Promote Community and Industry Focus

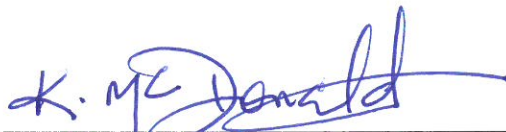
Locally, there continues to be an emphasis on collaboration and coordination with local, county and regional partners and stakeholders, for the purpose of increasing ridership and enhancing transit service for LBT's customers and those that travel throughout the region. As a co-chair of the Regional Ridership Improvement Task Force, LBT will continue to work cooperatively with its partners at LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the LA County Municipal Operators Association (LACMOA) to develop solutions that grow transit ridership in LA County by better understanding changes in the region's demographics, travel options and patterns.

At the state level, LBT will maintain a focus on the availability of Cap and Trade revenues, along with ensuring these funding programs allow maximum flexibility when determining eligible projects. After a long delay, staff finally expects that the California Air Resources Board will move forward with a mobile source strategy that will directly impact LBT's future fleet purchases. LBT will work to encourage regulations that provide alternative frameworks for achieving California's goals that more consciously take into account operational limitations and financial constraints.

Finally, with the new calendar year, a number of LBT's elected representatives at the local, state and federal levels have changed with the 2016 election. This change will undoubtedly bring new issues, and shifts in policies and priorities. Staff will hold briefings with its elected officials in order to make certain they are aware of LBT's services, current and future projects and programs, and goals.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT

A number of the proposed legislative program initiatives may provide additional funding for LBT and the region.



Kenneth A. McDonald
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment