

External/Stakeholder Relations Committee

October 19, 2020



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Item 3 - CONSIDERATION TO REAPPOINT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEMBERS

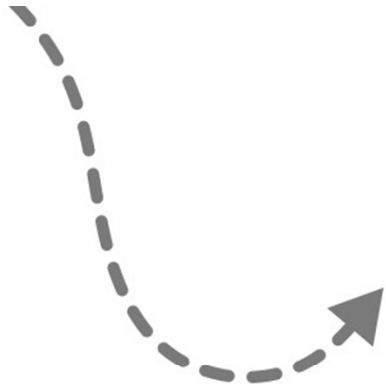
- Five CAC members are about to complete their terms, which will expire on January 31, 2021
- Two year terms begins on February 1, 2021 and expire on January 31, 2023

Recommendation -

The CAC bylaws require Board reappointment for CAC members. Staff recommends the Board reappoint the following Group B members - Almalel, Aroch, Conrad, Francois and Goeman.

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Item 4 Legislative Update



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State Update

Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5)/Proposition 22

- Passage of Prop 22 may provide a path for taxis to be considered compliant or help them receive an exemption.

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Local Update

Metro Fareless Initiative

- Metro Study
- Ridership Increases
- Operational Challenges
- HDR Estimates
 - Low Range
 - 70% Increase in Ridership - \$180 Million increase in costs
 - High Range
 - 140% Increase in Ridership - \$302 Million increase in costs

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Federal Affairs Briefing

Jen Covino, President
Simon and Company, Inc.



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About Our Work

- Simon and Company, Inc. is a bipartisan lobbying firm based in Washington, DC.
- Our team of five specializes in federal affairs and intergovernmental relations for units of local government. We represent cities, counties, and other public agencies.
- We have proudly represented Access Services and its federal interests since 2006. We are thankful for 14 years of partnership and collaboration!
- I joined the firm in 2011 as an Associate and became President and Owner of the firm in January 2019.

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COVID-19 Relief

- Since the pandemic began, President Trump signed four laws passed by Congress to support the public health emergency response and provide economic relief.
- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$25 billion to transit agencies.
- The Administration has been at work implementing the four laws.
- Access Services has been advocating for a fifth coronavirus relief package that provides additional funding for transit since May.

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COVID-19 Relief

- The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a \$2.2 trillion version of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act.
- It would provide \$32 billion of support for transit agencies, which would be distributed as follows:
 - \$18.5 billion for § 5307 and § 5337 grants for urbanized areas;
 - \$750 million for § 5311 grants for rural areas;
 - \$250 million for § 5310 grants for seniors and persons with disabilities;
 - \$10 billion for § 5324 Emergency Relief grants for agencies needing extra assistance to maintain operations; and
 - \$2.5 billion for § 5309 Capital Investment Grants (CIG) project sponsors.
- It would add Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) to the list of mandatory Medicaid benefits by codifying current regulations.

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COVID-19 Relief

- Senate proposals, including the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act, have not included additional aid for transit.
- Negotiations have been ongoing between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin for weeks.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell advised it is "unlikely" that bipartisan compromise legislation could be signed into law before Election Day.
- The court of public opinion, the economy, and the virus that has killed more than 210,000 Americans may force a compromise and legislative action before November.

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FY 2021 Appropriations

- The federal government is operating on a Continuing Resolution (C.R.) through December 11, 2020.
- The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 (H.R. 8337) includes a one-year extension of federal policy and programs included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94).
- The CR transfers dollars to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and Mass Transit Account to prevent shortfalls. It blocks the "Rostenkowski Test" (\$6 billion of cuts across transit formula programs).
- The House passed ten out of its twelve FY 2021 spending bills, but the Senate has not passed any. A full year budget will be determined during the lame duck session.

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Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee made early progress by unanimously approving the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (S. 2302) back in July 2019.
- However, the three other committees with jurisdiction did not take action to provide their respective titles focused on transit, rail, and other policies.
- Ultimately, even the \$287 billion, five-year surface transportation bill passed out of the EPW Committee has yet to reach the floor of the U.S. Senate for a full vote.

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Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- The U.S. House of Representatives passed a five-year surface transportation bill known as the INVEST in America Act (H.R. 2) earlier this summer.
- The \$494 billion measure would reauthorize federal-aid highway, public transit, and surface transportation safety and research programs through FY 2025.
- The House folded that bill into the larger \$1.5 trillion infrastructure investment package known as the Moving Forward Act.
- Democrats are likely to retain a majority in the House, so we may see the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee put forward a similar proposal in the 117th Congress.

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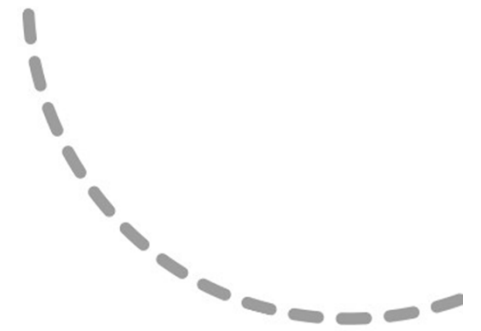
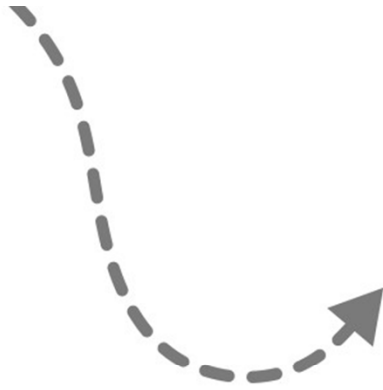


Prospects for the 2020 Election & the 117th Congress

- Election Day is only two weeks away! Our 45th President Donald J. Trump (R) and our 47th Vice President Joseph R. Biden (D) will face off on November 3, 2020.
- While the Vice President has led consistently in national polls, we should understand that the path to 270 ought to be the focus of speculation.
- According to the most recent polls (as of 10/12), Democrats will likely retain their majority in the House of Representatives. Democrats could also flip the Senate, but the margins are narrow.

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Item 5 Grants Update



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Current

Allocated

- FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) (\$69.5M)
- FTA Section 5310 - Capital (\$10.1M)

Competitive

- FTA Section 5316 - Access to Work Program (\$4.5M)
- FTA Section 5317 - Out of Service Area (\$958k)

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Recently Awarded

Allocated

- Metro Transfer Trip Expansion (\$238k)

Competitive

- FTA Transit Bus Automation Strategic Partnership (\$120k)
- FTA Mobility for All - Where's My Ride enhancements (\$330k)

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Applied

- FHWA Automated Driving System Demonstration - requested \$10M (AV pilot program)
- FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation - requested \$3.5M (AV pilot program)
- FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Program - requested \$5M for hybrid/electric ADA accessible vans

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Pending

- FEMA - COVID 19 reimbursement (\$3M)
- Medi-Cal - amount TBD for transportation referrals and eligible trips
- USDOT Inclusive Design Challenge - amount TBD for innovative design solutions

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