



# Metro

July 27, 2007

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THROUGH:** ROGER SNOBLE   
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FROM:** MATTHEW RAYMOND   
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** AUGMENT METRO FEDERAL ADVOCACY TEAM

## ISSUE

Metro seeks to augment its existing federal advocacy team by adding a lobbyist who will strengthen our current effort in Washington, D.C. in support of our current and future projects.

## BACKGROUND

Given the extent of the major capital projects Metro is involved with and the current environment and opportunities at the federal level, members of the Metro board, in conjunction with the Expo Board, have suggested increased lobbying efforts in Washington D.C. to help secure and solidify future funding and support. In response, Metro is augmenting its existing federal advocacy team with an additional lobbyist to strengthen our current effort in Washington, D.C. in support of our current and future projects.

Metro currently employs three entities to lobby members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate and the Executive Branch in support of the Federal Legislative Program adopted annually by the Board of Directors. The Legislative Program directs Metro to advocate in support of both a number of high priority projects (i.e. – Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension) and programmatic priorities related to federal formula funding.

Metro's federal advocacy team has successfully worked with Congress to ensure that the agency's number one rail priority, the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, has received funding consistent with the project's \$491 million Full Funding Grant Agreement. Last year, the federal advocates worked effectively with House and Senate members and with officials at the Department of Transportation to ensure that the latest installment of FFGA funds for the Eastside Project (\$100 million) was not delayed as a result of Congressional actions related to earmark reform.

This new team member will focus on developing political support in Washington, D.C. for Metro's future transit projects, including but not limited to the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project, which require Full Funding Grant Agreements.

Because this new team member will be working as a member of the Metro federal advocacy team, their actions will be consistent with the Federal Legislative Program adopted by the Board on December 7, 2006.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

The Chief Executive Officer, as an ex-officio member of the Expo Construction Authority, will coordinate with the Expo Construction Authority to recruit and select a qualified lobbyist or lobbying firm that will best meet our federal needs. The primary responsibility will be to focus on legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of Board-approved transit projects. This effort will be accomplished within the existing FY08 budget and under my authority. The new lobbying firm or lobbyist will function as a member of Metro's existing federal advocacy team.