





Metro

NOVEMBER 9, 2006

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MATTHEW RAYMOND 
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND
REVENUE STUDY COMMISSION

ISSUE

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission has announced that it will hold a field hearing in Los Angeles County on February 21 and 22, 2006.

BACKGROUND

The National Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission was created under Section 1909 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The commission was created by Congress to generate a report on how to enhance the nation's transportation system to meet the needs of the United States for the 21st century.

Specifically, the commission is charged with addressing prospective short and long-term alternatives to replacing or supplementing the fuel tax as the principal revenue source to support the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF). The trust fund is expected to face significant revenue shortfalls by 2009 and will, if not made solvent, begin to compromise the mobility of all Americans.

The commission, comprised of 12 members who represent local, state and federal governments, is required by law to deliver its report to Congress by July 1, 2007. Because the commission has been delayed in its work, commissioners have formally petitioned Congress for an additional six months to complete their report. The final report will include a plan to ensure that the nation's surface transportation system will continue to serve the needs of the United States.

The Commission recently announced its plan to hold a number of field hearings across the United States. The field hearings will allow commissioners to solicit input from federal, state and local transportation officials and experts, as well as the general public, regarding transportation needs and solutions in their regions.

Metro initiated a proactive plan earlier this year to encourage the commission to hold a field hearing in Los Angeles County. Last month, the commission issued a notice that listed Los Angeles County as a site for a field hearing to be held on February 21 and 22, 2007. Metro will be a co-host of this field hearing, along with the California Marine and Intermodal Transportation System Advisory Council, the American Traffic Safety Services Association, and the Associated General Contractors of America.

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006 a Metro representative met in Washington, DC with the co-hosts of the planned field hearing in Los Angeles County to discuss the format and agenda of the hearing to be held early next year. The dialogue at the meeting focused on the wish of commissioners to learn about the specific transportation challenges facing southern California at the field hearing. A follow up meeting will occur next week to generate a detailed agenda for the commission's field hearing, including how many speakers will address the commissioners and what topics they will be addressing.

NEXT STEPS

Metro Government Relations is working with the staff of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission and the co-hosts of the upcoming Los Angeles field hearing to ensure that the meeting addresses meaningful short and long term proposals to pay for America's transportation infrastructure. Metro staff will work to generate a policy document by next month that examines a number of proposals that may be adopted by the commission to safeguard the solvency of the federal HTF. In a parallel effort, Metro will work with the commission and the co-hosts of the commission's Los Angeles County field hearing to create an agenda for the hearing that accurately reflects the multi-modal transportation challenges facing the 10 million people who live and work in our county. By January 2007, Metro staff will issue a second board box updating Board members on the status of the commission's planned field hearing in Los Angeles County.

Attachments A & B

ATTACHMENT A

Commissioners

Mary Peters, Secretary of Transportation—Chairperson

Frank Busalacchi, Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation

Rick Geddes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Cornell University Dept. of Policy Analysis and Management

Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Frank McArdle, General Contractors Association of New York

Steve Odland, Chairman and CEO, Office Depot

Patrick Quinn, Chairman, American Trucking Association

Matt Rose, CEO, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad

Jack Schenendorf, Of Counsel, Covington & Burling-Vice Chair

Tom Skancke, CEO, The Skancke Company

Paul Weyrich, Chairman and CEO, Free Congress Foundation

ATTACHMENT B

Commission Field Hearings

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Location
September 20-21, 2006	Field Hearing	Dallas, TX
November 15-16, 2006	Field Hearing	New York , New York
November 15-16, 2006	Field Hearing	Memphis , Tennessee
February 21-22, 2007	Field Hearing	Los Angeles , California
February 21-22, 2007	Field Hearing	Atlanta , Georgia
April 18-19, 2007	Field Hearing	Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
April 18-19, 2007	Field Hearing	Chicago , Illinois