

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA CONSENSUS PRINCIPLES FOR
SAFETEA-LU REAUTHORIZATION

RECOMMENDATION: Support

Recommendation

The current Federal transportation authorization act, known as Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) will expire on September 30, 2009. In 2007, the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency and the California Department of Transportation began working with transportation stakeholders throughout the state to develop common principles for consideration in the development of a new Federal transportation bill. Through open meetings and workshops, the stakeholders reached consensus on seven principles – the California Consensus Principles, intended to comprehensively address the transportation system maintenance and improvement needs of California. The adopted principles are as follows:

- Ensure the financial integrity of the Highway and Transit Trust Funds
- Rebuild and maintain transportation infrastructure in a good state of repair
- Establish goods movement as a national priority
- Enhance mobility through congestion relief within and between metropolitan areas
- Strengthen the federal commitment to safety and security, particularly with respect to rural roads and access
- Strengthen comprehensive environmental stewardship
- Streamline project delivery

Because these principles are consistent with the County's 2009 Legislative Policies pertaining to SAFETEA-LU reauthorization, staff recommends support of the California Consensus Principles.

Background and Analysis

In 2005, President Bush signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU authorized the Federal surface transportation programs and provided \$286.5 billion in Federal investment for highway, public transportation, and highway safety programs for the 5-year period of 2005-2009. SAFETEA-LU expires on September 30, 2009.

Congress and the new Administration will soon begin work on a bill to reauthorize the Federal surface transportation programs. In order to provide one voice on the major issues of the next authorization bill, the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency and the California Department of Transportation began working with transportation stakeholders throughout the state to develop a common set of principles for reauthorization. The California Consensus Principles are the result of this effort.

The California Consensus Principles have been designed to improve on the targeted investment approach that was encompassed in SAFETEA-LU based on the lessons learned during the past several years. The principles are intended to comprehensively address the transportation system maintenance and improvement needs of California, while recognizing that each organization and locality will have its own specific principles and intentions. The Consensus Principles intend to provide guidance to California's large and diverse Congressional delegation, and to be shared with other national organizations to influence their platforms. A copy of the California Consensus Principles is attached for reference.

Stakeholders, including Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), throughout California have or are considering adoption of the California Consensus Principles for reauthorization of the Federal transportation bill. It is anticipated that stakeholders would adopt the principles over the next few months in time to influence California's Congressional delegation and committee staff who are expected to begin drafting reauthorization proposals. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission have endorsed the Consensus Principles.

Supervisor Cortese referred this item to the Legislative Committee.

Staff recommends that the Legislative Committee support adoption of the California Consensus Principles for reauthorization of a Federal transportation bill.