

Transportation Funding Group Meeting  
Notes from conference call August 8, 2005

Participants: Stuart Cohen, Irvin Dawid, Lila Hussain, Andy Katz, Jeremy Nelson, Chris Peeples, Norman Rolfe, John Rudolph, Christine Safriet

Immediate Next Steps

- Review Regional Funding Matrix (file available 8/16 on TALC website)
- Email Christine with additions/changes to matrix (by 8/24 if possible)

The group continued to discuss policy options for generating new funding for transit. Jeremy Nelson provided a brief summary of the Working Group's progress to date. Christine was tasked with developing outreach materials, predominately in the form of an expanded Regional Funding Matrix and a summary of her research findings. Stuart proposed a timeline to guide the group's actions moving forward.

Research was presented on questions raised at the group's July meeting. Regarding the differences between vehicle license fees and taxes in CA: the VLF is a tax on vehicles; other fees are registration fees and/or surcharges. The main difference between a tax and a fee is the way in which funds can be expended – taxes have fewer expenditure restrictions than fees, but are more difficult to instate (requiring public votes at the local level) than fees (requiring legislative action).

The group discussed the concept of framing new fees as impact mitigation fees; 2004 legislation (AB 1546) in San Mateo calls similar fees "vehicle registration surcharges" and appear to be of a similar nature – the funds go to reduce damage/impact caused by vehicles. At least two other states, Washington and Wisconsin, have some sort of transit-related vehicle registration fees, surcharges, or taxes. In WA, the Sound Transit District was created in urban areas of King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to levy a registration tax and a sales tax expressly dedicated to transit use. In WI, a one-time environmental impact fee is levied when vehicles are first registered in the state, and funds are dedicated to environmental uses, including transit.

The group agreed to review the Regional Funding Matrix and send any additional revenue ideas to Christine. She will update the matrix with these suggestions, accumulated research, and the five policy goals agreed upon at a previous meeting. The group will then approach other members of the coalition and outside stakeholders for feedback on the matrix and to provide direction for future policy decision. The following timeline was adopted:

September:	Finish matrix and bring to TALC's Regional Meeting Bring on replacement research/outreach intern
Sept/Oct:	Outreach to all TALC member groups for feedback Outreach to critical non-member groups (ex. CMA, AAA) for feedback
Nov/Dec:	Consider feedback and select best funding option Take plan to legislature
Goal:	Depending on nature of plan, bill passes in Fall/Winter 2006 or 2008

Next meeting set for Wednesday, August 31 at 12:30 p.m.

Call-in number: 702-835-5000 (Las Vegas, Nevada)

Access Code: 8252783

If you would like to participate in the call but do not have long distance access, please let TALC know and we will provide a toll-free alternative.

Please visit the TFG page on the TALC website for the latest information about meetings, to join the TFG Listserv, or to download meeting notes, research documents, and outreach materials: [http://transcoalition.org/c/sus\\_funding/funding.html](http://transcoalition.org/c/sus_funding/funding.html)