

ACTION NEWS

Association for Commuter Transportation Northern California Inland Chapter

Winter 2004

Greetings!

As we begin a new year, your board of directors looks forward to a year of exciting programs and projects for our chapter which will help all of us meet our TDM goals. We are fortunate to have **Larry Robinson** from Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD keeping track of local, state and national legislation, our past president **Ed Huestis** following the alternative fuels field, and our regional director **Debbie Maus** working on the ACT National Conference to be held in San Francisco. This year's board of directors has more than **100 years** of experience in the field of transportation, planning and air quality issues and we plan to put it to good use to serve our members.

Survey results are in and we are planning events for the year. We are excited to start out this month with a **Netconference on January 27, "Transit-Oriented Development: Possibilities for TDM Professionals"** We hope you can join us to find out more about the role the TDM professional can play in ensuring success of transit oriented development. More details are on page 3 and an invitation has been sent out to all members. Please pass the invitation on to any businesses, agencies, or individuals who would benefit by attending. If you have not received one or have any questions, please contact me. We will have a brief chapter update prior to the net conference so bring your lunch and exchange information and ideas with your colleagues.

If you know of any event, project or program that would be of interest to our members, we encourage you to share it.

Kathy Coulter, Chapter President

Farewell!

It was with mixed feelings that we received this from **Sue Teranishi**. "I am resigning from my position as Region 1 Director to the ACT National Board. I have retired from my position as Alternative Modes Coordinator at the Sacramento Area Council of Governments December 2003 so am no longer professionally involved in TDM work. It has been an honor to be a part of the ACT National Board. I will continue to be involved in our local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy efforts so will still be around our alternative mode efforts here. I wish continued success to all the dedicated members of our industry!"

Sue served five consecutive years on our chapter board and oversaw the annual awards selection while also working as the Transportation Coordinator at FTB. She was the Clean Air Hero for the 2001 American Lung Association Awards. She served on a variety of organizations including FRED TMA, SACOG's Task Force, ALASET, SABA and her work within the community will be missed. We wish her the best of luck in retirement.



Sue adjusting to retirement!

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A LOOK AT LEGISLATION FOR 2004 and *BEYOND*

by Larry Robinson

INTER-ACT-ING WITH THE LEGISLATURE...

It's All About the Benjamins...

The Governor's proposed 2004-05 budget contains crippling cutbacks to an already strapped state transportation system. The budget proposal not only reiterates the Governor's proposed mid-year budget cuts for 2003-04, but also proposes additional cuts for 2004-05.

The new transportation cuts total \$1.2 billion, with significant reductions in public transit funding. Sustaining the biggest hit is Proposition 42, approved by 69% of California voters on the March 2002 ballot. To refresh your memory, this initiative dedicated funds from the sales tax on gasoline, approximately \$1 billion annually, to be used to improve California's highways, local roads and mass transit. The Governor's budget puts in limbo 141 projects statewide, including a regional bus system for the Bay Area, low-emission buses in Los Angeles, and clean air programs throughout the Sacramento and Central Valley regions. This will be the second time in as many years that this revenue stream will not go to the projects for which it was intended, unless the Legislature rejects the Governor's proposal.

Some of the Governor's Budget specifics include:

- * The Governor's budget asks the Legislature to vote to postpone indefinitely a \$10 billion bond measure to build a high-speed rail line — also known as a bullet train — between Los Angeles and San Francisco. That line was planned to connect eventually to Sacramento and San Diego. The bond measure would have included approximately \$1 billion for local transit service.
- * The proposed budget diverts \$138 million from the Public Transportation Account, which provides vital operating and capital funding to local transit agencies.

* The Governor's proposed 2004-05 State Transit Assistance program is \$101,424,000. This is a \$3.182 million decrease from the current year's program, which will impact bus services around the state.

* The Caltrans Environmental Justice and Community Based Transportation Planning grant programs were allocated \$1.5 million each, which mirrors the 50% cut in these programs sustained in 2003-04.

* The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program sustained a \$5 million mid-year cut which completely eliminated the program. This money is proposed to be restored at \$10 million for 2004-05, but proposes no new money, just using money that is in the account from past transfers.

* Although there is no specific appropriation, the Safe Routes to School program will be cut \$5 million with an allocation of approximately \$15 million coming from federal funding.

* The Bicycle Transportation Account's funding is proposed at \$7,190,000, with no proposed mid-year cuts.

It's no secret that California's infrastructure gap is wider than a certain WMD credibility chasm. A recent study by the state determined that even before the budget crisis, California had fallen \$100 billion behind in infrastructure — transportation needs alone are estimated at almost \$30 billion. This underinvestment is taking a calamitous toll on the quality of life in our communities.

The Governor's budget will now undergo legislative scrutiny, but the real work won't begin in earnest until a revised Ubernatorial, er, I mean Gubernatorial State budget is released in May (the "May Revise"). Stay tuned - we're just getting started!!!

ACT is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to increasing mobility by making the commute easier, more convenient and less costly.

ACT membership represents a broad-based alliance of both public and private sectors. For information about membership, contact Kathy Coulter at (530)-757-3657.

Update from National:

John Donovan, rideshare program manager for San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare has been appointed Director for Region 1 replacing **Sue Teranishi** who retired in December.

AND THE WINNER IS..

The annual chapter meeting held December 4 at the Fireside Restaurant in Old Sacramento provided an opportunity for our chapter to acknowledge the great work of our members. We are pleased to announce the winners for ACT NOW AWARDS in 2003.

New for 2003 was the *Making A Difference* category. Open only to non-members, we had the opportunity to recognize others in our region. The winner receives a complimentary one year membership in our chapter as a thank you for their contribution.



Chapter members enjoy good food and friends at the annual meeting.



Individual Award
Bill Fairbairn,
Yolo TMA Executive Director

Creative Excellence Award
Placer County Transportation
and Planning Agency (PCTPA)
&
City of Auburn
"Way to Go" Project



Business/Agency Award
Franchise Tax Board (FTB)
"Vanpool Program"



Making A Difference
Natomas Park
Elementary School
"Walk to School" Committee

Special Thanks to the organizers of our annual awards luncheon.

THE ROLE OF TDM IN MANAGING THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Role of TDM in Managing the Transportation System was presented at the Annual Officer Installation and Awards Presentation for ACT Northern California Inland Chapter on December 4, 2003, by Mr. **Tad Widby**, Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.

The perspective that TDM should be a tool rather than an outcome and that it should be "part" of a package of strategies to improve mobility fits well with the message espoused by ACT. Comparing transportation practices with business practices offers a relational perspective that helps to ask the right transportation question and identify appropriate transportation investments. Mr. Widby's presentation provided an

overview of different strategies for different types of planning projects including local, metropolitan, state, environmental, funding and special studies.

Mr. Widby shared the ultimate TDM solution to traffic as quoted by Will Rogers', "The only way to solve the traffic problems of the country is to pass a law that only paid-for cars are allowed to use the highways."

The Board of ACT Northern CA Inland Chapter thanks Mr. Widby for making this special presentation at the annual event as a valued resource to the Chapter.



Keynote Speaker
Tad Widby

ACT NOW... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BRIDGING the GAPS

Solutions for Improved Mobility
Western Regional ACT Conference
April 22 & 23, 2004, San Francisco
Make plans now to attend!

Hosted by the Northern California and Northern California Inland ACT Chapters.

Sessions Include:

- Legislative Updates (TEA-3, Commuter Choice)
- Commuter Incentive Programs
- Regional TDM Implementation
- Employer Parking Management
- Online Ridesharing
- Transit Friendly Development
- The Latest in ITS
- University TDM
- Creative Marketing & Successful Projects
- 511 Traveler Information

Who Should Attend:

- Transportation Professionals
- TDM Practitioners
- TMA Directors and Board Members
- Employee Transportation Coordinators
- Urban Planners
- Commuter Service Agencies
- Local Government Officials
- Public Transit Professionals
- Rideshare Agencies

Registration materials are available online at actweb.org

More Details to Come!

2004 ACT International
September 19-22
New Orleans

DID YOU KNOW?

Traffic congestion is no longer just a big-city problem. We spend five times as long stalled in traffic in small and medium-sized cities than in 1982, and this figure is growing at a far faster rate than in larger cities.

100 Years Ago:

There were only 8,000 cars in the US
and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
Amazing what we can do in 100 years!

Saving Money

The typical worker who switches from driving alone to carpooling
saves more than \$1,000 a year and
avoids driving an average of 5,000 miles per year.

LUNCH & LEARN*

January 27, 2004

“Transit-Oriented Development: Possibilities for TDM Professionals”

Chapter Update: 10:30 AM

Net Conference Begins: 11 AM

Transit oriented development (TOD) helps build demand for transportation options by focusing development around transit stations, corridors, or places transit can serve. Key elements for success include the selection and arrangement of land uses, land use density, design, parking management and services friendly to walking and biking. Learn the possibilities and uncertainties of transit-oriented development, plus the role TDM professionals can play in ensuring success.

Elizabeth Deakin, Director of the University of California Transportation Research Center and Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley, will brief ACT members on the when, where, and why of this sustainable development technique, while identifying opportunities for TDM partnerships.

RSVP to Kathy Coulter 530-757-3657 or via email: kcoulter@ysaqmd.org by January 22. *Bring your lunch and the chapter will supply drinks and dessert.

IN SEARCH OF:

Clean Air Champions

The American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails is requesting nominations for their annual awards event. This event recognizes contributions from individuals, agencies and organizations who have gone ‘above and beyond’ to make the region a better place to live and breathe. Members of ACT are ideal candidates so do not hesitate to nominate one of your colleagues.

*If you would like to make a nomination contact ALASET: judyb@saclung.org or call 1-800-LUNG-USA. **Deadline for nominations is January 30, 2004.***

REGIONAL NEWS



TRIAL RIDE PROGRAM

If you've never had the opportunity to ride Amtrak's Capitol Corridor, have they got a deal for you! They've launched a Trial Ride Program and are asking organizations to participate in this can't be beat **FREE** offer. They are offering **FREE** round-trip passes to anyone interested in trying out the Capitol Corridor.

For those of you not familiar with the Capitol Corridor, it offers frequent and reliable intercity train service between Auburn/Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley/San Jose.

This program was primarily designed to encourage business travel, however, if people are interested in taking the train for leisure travel, they won't be turned away!

If you or your co-workers are interested in this terrific offer, contact Solvi Sabol at the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency at 530-823-4029 or ssabol@pctpa.org.

Additional Information

- Passes are valid through **March 31, 2004**.
- Valid on Capitol Corridor train service only. Not valid on other services.
- Each coupon may be redeemed for a free round-trip ride on the Capitol Corridor only.
- Cannot be combined with other coupons.
- One coupon per customer.

SEE YOU ON BOARD THE CAPITOL CORRIDOR!



HISTORY IN THE MAKING FOR AUBURN

The city of Auburn celebrated the completion of the train station, located on Nevada Street and Fulweiler Avenue, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 18, 2003. A boarding platform, lighting, shelter, parking and restrooms now serve the 70+ CC riders who commute daily via the Capitol Corridor from Auburn to Sacramento and beyond to the Bay Area.

This station will also be a hub for bus operators in and around the Auburn area – a centralized location where people can access Auburn Transit, Placer County Transit, Nevada County's Gold Country Stage, Amtrak Thruway buses and Dial-a-Ride.

"It was a proud day for Auburn," said **Kathy Sands**, Auburn City Councilmember and Chair of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. "It meant so much to be a part of this historic project that will serve generations to come."

Project funding came from local, state, and federal sources secured by the **Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA)**. "Putting together transportation projects requires a lot of commitment, tenacity, and patience" said PCTPA's Executive Director, **Celia McAdam**, "It's all worth it when you see a project like this become a reality." The City of Auburn oversaw the \$1.2 million project which began in March. "The station came in on budget", said **Thomas Fossum**, public works director, "and we're pleased with the outcome."

Riders **Chuck Robuck** and **Robert Conheim** were full of praise for the project. "The Auburn Station to us is the result of vision and leadership by city, county and district officials, who saw the value of making Auburn a first class destination for transportation in the valley and the foothills."

The Capitol Corridor has seen ridership soar in Auburn from an average annual activity of 5,505 in 1999 to 37,076 reported in fiscal year ending September 30, 2003. As additional trains are introduced to and from Auburn, these numbers will grow even greater. **Eugene Skoropowski**, Managing Director of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, said "We've been able to set goals and reach them by working to provide riders a comfortable, flexible, and reliable service – do that and the numbers will follow."

For more information contact the City of Auburn at 530-823-4211 or PCTPA at 530-823-4030.

YOLO TMA EXTENDS TDM SERVICES

The Yolo Transportation Management Association recently received a grant from the Feather River Air Quality Management District to launch rideshare services in **Yuba** and **Sutter** Counties. Plans are underway to work with a number of local companies and agencies to provide information and hands-on assistance leading to expanded carpooling, vanpooling, public transit and local bicycle commute options. With **Marysville**, **Yuba City** and other area communities attracting a large number of commuters who work in the metropolitan Sacramento region, highways 70 and 99 are showing increased congestion.

Working with **Enterprise Rideshare**, this venture has already committed incentive funding to a new vanpool running between **Elk Grove** and **Beale Air Force Base**. Program incentives are similar to amounts funded by other Sacramento region TMAs and TDM organizations. For additional information or to participate in this program, please call the Yolo TMA at 530-669-1446.