



**Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change (TAQCC) committee meeting
Thursday, April 2nd, 6 - 7 pm
Mogavero, Notestine, 2012 K Street**

Attendees:

Terry Preston, cmte co-chair
Alex Reagan, ECOS staff
Matt Baker, ECOS staff
Michelle Pariset, CROP
Delphine Cathcart, ECOS member
Ralph Propper, ECOS board member
Traci Canfield, RT
John Deeter, ECOS
Dennis Newfield
Bill Reany

I. ECOS' downtown streetcar position

1. All-mail vote will be sent to support Property Tax district around streetcar area. Map presented from elections county dept. by Dennis Newfield.
2. Question for RT from John Deeter: why doesn't RT have buses to West Sac? Answer: probably due to cutbacks
3. In the Annual Report on Funding Recommendations (released March 9, 2015), Sacramento streetcar is not rated because of a lack of accuracy in ridership. Traci Canfield RT says that is was probably due to a disagreement on measurement tools used.
4. Delphine Cathcart: I sent the link to Prof Gregory L. Thompson, Chair, Light Rail Transit Committee of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences. Prof. Thompson replied that he had read the report and found it to be accurate and unbiased. Since then I have had many email conversations about the Sacramento Streetcar Project. Unfortunately, Prof. Thompson could not attend the TAQCC meeting tonight.
5. Michelle Pariset: RT says they do not have it in their budget to fund the operations and management – she is concerned that RT will be held responsible to maintain and operate the streetcar, thereby taking funds away from already-slashed bus systems.
6. Streetcar is more of a “ride” or to “add bling” to Sacramento. They are referred to as “people movers” – they are servicing pedestrians, not people who would be driving. It is a circulator

feature and not transit – not taking people out of cars. There’s nowhere to park your car to use the streetcar anyway.

7. Other than West Sacramento, it is not going increase connectivity.
8. Terry Preston asked group: If this was funded in a way that would not take money from other transit in the region, then would we support it? Terry says other cities have funded their streetcar projects with separate funds.
Answers: Yes, it will still cause congestion. The numbers are also not believable. Costs vs. ridership numbers do not add up.
9. Should ECOS take an opposing stance, supporting stance or stay neutral?
10. Main consensus is that the major concern is funding for Operations and Management (O & M). If RT is forced to pay for Operations and Maintenance without additional funds coming in, then most people oppose it. If it was funded independently, some people present tonight would still oppose it because of congestion.
11. West Sac and Yolo are biggest supporters of moving this project forward tonight.
12. Matt Baker says it would be nice to get over from West Sac, and that the transit system could become more appealing and add value to the system -- so long as it doesn't steal the O & M finds from the rest of the transit system.
13. Would we support the project if it had a shielded and protected fund for O & M?
14. The vote on Measure B is from May 4 – June 2.
15. Terry Preston would like to see what we can suggest to local leaders to tweak the streetcar proposal so that we could support it.
16. Next steps:

Streetcar position:

Terry Preston will draft a position letter on the streetcar and send it to the TAQCC cmte and Delphine Cathcart. Work it out in email and present a draft to ex comm on Monday, April 6th (in 4 days).

County Measure B (funds streetcar) position:

The potential ballot measure will have to be discussed further at our next TAQCC meeting, which is on May 7. The vote on the special assessment is from May 4 – June 2 Ballots will be completed by voters in tax assessment area.

II. Climate Action plan:

We need to be better about diving into the city’s Climate Action Plans and General Plan. Terry Preston and Ralph Propper say there’s good stuff in there but no enforcement. We should applaud them for having those in there and encourage them to do them. Council is supposed to getting reports back on the climate change plan. City of Sac does have a group that monitors that.