MEMO

DATE: March 3, 2005

TO: The Regional Council
The Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC)

FROM: Charlotte Pienkos, Government Affairs Analyst
Phone: (213) 236-1811 E-Mail: pienkos@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Southern California Consensus Program Update

SUMMARY:

The third annual Southern California Consensus Program advocacy visit to Washington D.C. is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16th, and Thursday, February 17th. As of this writing on February 10th, representatives from SCAG, Imperial County, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Orange County Transportation Commission, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), and Ventura County Transportation Commission are attending the event. Meetings are scheduled with the Southern California Congressional Delegation and key Administration officials.

BACKGROUND:

In February 2003, SCAG led the first delegation of regional transportation stakeholders to Washington to present the Southern California Consensus Program for TEA-21 Reauthorization. The reauthorization of TEA-21 stalled over funding levels, however, and a second and third trip were planned in subsequent years to redeliver Southern California's message about the region's transportation priorities to Congress and the Administration. This year's trip will occur on February 16th and 17th.

Momentum is building strongly in Washington to enact a reauthorization before the May deadline, and the region has responded with continued support for the Consensus Program. The SCAG region delegation will meet with members of Congress and agency officials to stress the need to maintain core programs, create projects of national significance, fund New Starts projects, and give regions innovative financing tools. SCAG is coordinating the effort, as in past years, and as authorized by the 2004 SCAG State and Federal Legislative Program.

At the March 3rd meeting of the Regional Council and TCC, information will be available about the outcome of the Southern California Consensus Program trip to Washington.

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