



March 25, 2021
1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Board Executive Committee Meeting Telephonic Meeting

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82385028562?pwd=Qk9DeEpUWk5CVDNOeVV1WHZnaDZNdz09>

Meeting ID: 82385028562; Passcode: 089975

You can also dial in using your phone: +1 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 82385028562; Passcode: 089975

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Public gatherings are to be limited.

Further, on March 18, 2020, Governor Newsom temporarily suspended the Brown Act requirements pertaining to telephonic conferencing of local government meetings and the requirement to have at least one physical location available to the public for purposes of attending the meeting. As such, RTA has opted to conduct the March 25, 2021 meeting via teleconference. Participants can participate via teleconference in each participant's own office / home area which will not be made physically accessible to the public.

Members of the public wishing to participate via teleconference can do so by joining the meeting from your computer, tablet or smart phone at 1:00 p.m. on March 25, 2021: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82385028562?pwd=Qk9DeEpUWk5CVDNOeVV1WHZnaDZNdz09>; Meeting ID 82385028562; Passcode: 089975; or you may dial in using your phone to (669) 900-6833; Meeting ID 82385028562; Passcode: 089975. If you do not wish to speak, please silence / mute your device during the meeting.

Those wishing to speak during the meeting must submit comments and/or questions in writing for Board consideration by completing the online Speaker Request Form which can be accessed through our website at RiversideTransit.com or by clicking [HERE](#). Please submit your written comments by Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Once you dial in, you must ensure that you are in a quiet environment with no background noise (traffic, children, pets, etc.) **You must mute your phone until called upon by the Chair or the Clerk to speak.** Once called upon, please unmute your device and speak. You will be warned prior to your allotted time being over.

Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, or any person with limited English proficiency (LEP) who requires language assistance to communicate with the Riverside Transit Agency Board of Directors during the meeting, should contact the Riverside Transit Agency Clerk of the Board, telephone number (951) 565-5066, no fewer than two business days prior to this meeting to enable the Riverside Transit Agency to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility or language assistance for this meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to provide members of the public a general summary of business to be conducted or discussed. Posting of any recommended action on an agenda item does not indicate what action will be taken. The Board of Directors may take any action it believes is appropriate on the agenda item and is not limited in any way by the notice of any recommendation.

All documents related to any agenda item are available for public inspection at www.riversidetransit.com or through the Clerk of the Board's office at the Riverside Transit Agency, 1825 Third Street, Riverside, CA 92507.

ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments shall be limited to matters not listed on the agenda. Members of the public may comment on any matter listed on the agenda at the time that the Board considers that matter. Each person's presentation is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

RECEIVE COMMENTS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (P.4)

APPROVE

5. AMEND THE HUMAN RESOURCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, SECTION 9-1, COVID-19 LEAVE AND COMPENSATION POLICY AND EXTEND THE EXPIRATION TO JUNE 30, 2021 (P.7)

APPROVE

ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

- 6. AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW AGREEMENT WITH
DAVID TURCH AND ASSOCIATES FOR LEGISLATIVE
ADVOCACY SERVICES (P.14)**

APPROVE

7. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 22, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Riverside County Administration Center

Board Chambers

4080 Lemon St., First Floor

Riverside, CA 92501

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

RTA BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
February 25, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Vice Chair Zak Schwank called the Board Executive Committee meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. on February 25, 2021 via teleconference.

Prior to self-introductions, Chair Linda Krupa addressed the committee members. Chair Krupa explained why First Vice Chair Zak Schwank was chairing today's meeting. Chair Krupa went on to say she had been diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery just two days prior. Chair Krupa wanted to take this opportunity to urge all those listening to not put off preventative health screenings and tests, stressing that early detection is the key to successful treatment and survival. Chair Krupa added her prognosis is good because of early detection and thanked the committee for allowing her to speak.

2. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

In lieu of self-introductions, a roll call was taken.

Committee Members Attending

1. Linda Krupa, City of Hemet
2. Zak Schwank, City of Temecula
3. Linda Molina, City of Calimesa
4. Bridgette Moore, City of Wildomar
5. Jeremy Smith, City of Canyon Lake

Committee Members Absent

1. Alonso Ledezma, City of San Jacinto

RTA Staff

1. Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer
2. Craig Fajnor, Chief Financial Officer
3. Natalie Zaragoza, Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer
4. Jim Kneepkens, Chief Marketing Officer
5. Kristin Warsinski, Director of Planning
6. Rick Kaczerowski, Chief Technology Officer
7. Charlie Ramirez, Controller
8. Joan Hepworth, Clerk of the Board

Other Attendees

1. Barbara Raileanu, Agency General Counsel

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 28, 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

M/S/C (MOORE/SMITH) approving the minutes of the January 28, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. VEHICLE TRANSFER APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE PLACED ON THE RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY’S RETIRED VEHICLE RECIPIENT WAITLIST

M/S/C (SMITH/MOORE) as to the following:

Approve and recommend this item to the full Board of Directors for their consideration as follows:

- Approve the vehicle transfer applications that have met the minimum eligibility requirements for placement on the retired vehicle recipient wait list in accordance with the Agency’s Vehicle Transfer Policy.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES WITH WORLD BACK TO WORK FOR EMPLOYEE COVID-19 TESTING THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

M/S/C (MOLINA/MOORE) as to the following:

Approve and recommend this item to the full Board of Directors for their consideration as follows:

- Authorize additional emergency expenditures with World Back to Work for Employee COVID-19 testing in an amount that will not exceed \$303,750 through April 30, 2021.
- Authorize staff to amend Agreement No. 15-001 with Empire Transportation in an amount not-to-exceed \$85,050 to cover 50 percent of the cost of COVID-19 testing for qualified employees through April 30, 2021 if needed.
- Authorize staff to amend Agreement No. 17-008 with Southland Transit in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,625 to cover 50 percent of the cost of COVID-19 testing for qualified employees through April 30, 2021, if needed.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 25, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Riverside County Administration Center

4080 Lemon St., 5th Floor, Conference Room C

Riverside, CA 92501

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY
1825 Third Street
Riverside, CA 92507

March 25, 2021

TO: BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THRU: Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Laura Camacho, Chief Administrative Services Officer

SUBJECT: **REVISED Amend the Human Resource Policies and Procedures, Section 9-1, COVID-19 Leave and Compensation Policy and Extend the Expiration to June 30, 2021**

Summary: On March 26, 2020, the Agency's Board of Directors approved the Human Resource Policies and Procedures, Section 9-1 COVID-19 Leave and Compensation Policy (**COVID-19 Policy**). This temporary Policy was developed to provide specific procedures for responding to employee leave requests as a result of having been directly or indirectly affected by the "SARS-CoV-2" virus and the disease it causes; "coronavirus disease 2019" (COVID-19). The **COVID-19** Policy was due to expire on December 31, 2020 and the Board approved extending the expiration through March 31, 2021.

While employee-related COVID-19 cases have started to show a downward trend, positive cases are still present and the need for employee leave continues. Staff recommends amending the COVID-19 Leave and Compensation Policy and extending it for three months with a new expiration date of June 30, 2021. Staff also recommends the Agency continue to suspend the Attendance Policy for COVID-19 related symptoms so employees are not penalized for absences that could potentially be COVID-19 related.

If approved, the amended COVID-19 ~~Leave and Compensation Policy~~, **attached for review**, would continue to allow employees time off with pay up to maximums outlined within Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3, should they or their eligible dependents contract COVID-19, be exposed to COVID-19, suffer COVID-19-like symptoms or be affected by school closure or loss of child-care due to COVID-19. Employees who have not used the maximum leave and pay allotments under these Policy Tiers, would have those remaining balances available to them through June 30, 2021.

The Agency would continue to evaluate and approve work from home under Tier 4.

A change was also made on page 3 of the Policy to reflect changes in the California Department of Public Health and CDC guidance regarding relaxed requirement for quarantine, following an exposure to COVID-19 for asymptomatic cases.

The Agency will continue to comply with any Federal or State provisions which may provide a greater benefit, such as the November 30, 2020, State of California Department of Industrial Relations' Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHA) emergency temporary standards. These standards were adopted to protect workers from hazards related to COVID-19. Part of the requirements are for employers to provide leave and pay for employees who contract COVID-19 at work or are exposed to COVID-19 at work. When these standards apply, they may afford leave and pay above what our Policy provides and in those instances the Agency shall comply with these standards.

The Agency will also comply with the recently enacted Senate Bill 95 (SB 95) COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave. On March 19, 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 95 into law which provides covered full-time employees up to 80 hours of supplemental paid sick leave who are unable to work due to reasons summarized below related to COVID-19.

- ***The covered employee is subject to a quarantine or isolation period related to COVID-19;***
- ***The covered employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;***
- ***The covered employee is attending an appointment to receive a vaccine for protection against contracting COVID-19;***
- ***The covered employee is experiencing symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine that prevent the employee from being able to work or telework;***
- ***The covered employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;***
- ***The covered employee is caring for a family member who is subject to quarantine or isolation; or***
- ***The covered employee is caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed or otherwise unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.***

The provisions of SB 95 are retroactive to January 1, 2021 and will be in effect until September 30, 2021.

Senate Bill 95 allows an employer to count the hours of another paid benefit or leave, that offers similar pay for similar COVID-19 related time off, towards the 80 hours required by SB 95. The Agency's COVID-19 Policy offers at least up to 80 hours of time off at the employee's regular rate of pay for COVID-19 related reasons. Therefore, any paid time off provided to full-time employees under the Agency's COVID-19 Policy, beginning January 1, 2021, will count toward, and will not be in addition to, the 80 hours of supplemental sick leave pay required under SB 95. Full-time employees who are no longer eligible for paid leave under the Agency's COVID-19 Policy will be eligible for supplemental paid sick leave under SB 95.

The attached COVID-19 Policy was further updated to communicate the requirements of SB 95. While the Agency's COVID-19 Policy would be set to expire on June 30, 2021, the Agency will continue to provide paid time off benefits related to COVID-19 as required by active legislation such as SB 95, OSHA emergency temporary standards or any other Federal or State regulation subsequently enacted.

Fiscal Impact:

Approximately 71% of employees (322) will have a COVID-19 Policy Leave balance available after March 31, 2021. This remaining balance would be available to them through June 30, 2021. The cost for this COVID Leave was included in the current fiscal year's budget, no additional funds are being requested for this extension.

While it is unknown at this time the extent of SB 95 supplemental paid sick leave use, associated costs will be absorbed in the current fiscal year's budget. As additional data becomes available, staff will determine its cost implications for the period July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and include them in the FY22 budget.

Recommendation:

Approve and recommend this item to the full Board of Directors for their consideration as follows:

- Amend the Human Resource Policies and Procedures, Section 9-1 COVID-19 Leave and Compensation Policy and extend the expiration to June 30, 2021.

Distribution: All Employees		Subject: COVID-19 LEAVE AND COMPENSATION POLICY	
Effective Date: March 26, 2020	Page No. 1	Pages Of 4	File Under Section: 9 - 1 TEMPORARY
Revision Date: December 17, 2020 March 25, 2021		Approved By:	

PURPOSE

In support of the Agency’s Contagious Virus Response Plan, this temporary Policy provides direction regarding leave and compensation for Agency employees who may be affected by COVID-19. The Policy is subject to change at any time and exceptions may be made by the Chief Executive Officer in support of business needs. The Policy will be extended from December 31, 2020 and shall terminate on ~~March 31, 2021~~ **June 30, 2021**. This Policy may be terminated sooner or extended by action of the Board of Directors.

POLICY

On March 8, 2020 the Riverside County Public Health Officer declared a public health emergency after identification of the County’s first case of COVID-19. As a result, the Agency developed the Contagious Virus Response Plan (Plan). On March 18, 2020 the President of the United States signed into law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Act), which provides Paid Sick Leave and expands the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), through December 31, 2020, to those who have been affected by COVID-19 and who must care for children who are home due to school closures. This temporary Policy was intended to further expand on the Plan and the Act as it relates to COVID-19 leave of absence eligibility, applicable compensation for such leave, telecommuting options and attendance point applicability during leave. While ~~it is unknown whether the Act will be~~ **was not** extended, the Agency will continue to provide the protections outlined in this policy as amended. ~~Should the government extend or amend the Act, providing a richer benefit to employees, the Agency will comply as required.~~

The Agency will ~~also~~ comply with any other Federal or State provisions, such as the November 30, 2020 the State of California approved Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards, **as well as the March 19, 2021 Senate Bill 95 (SB 95)**, that may provide a ~~richer~~ **additional benefits** to employees.

PROCEDURE

Applicable leave, compensation, and absence classifications will be applied to those employees affected by COVID-19 as described within each Tier and Additional Tier Instructions. The Agency will also adhere to and provide leave and pay as mandated by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, ~~and the~~ Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards, **and SB 95**.

Distribution: All Employees		Subject: COVID-19 LEAVE AND COMPENSATION POLICY	
Effective Date: March 26, 2020	Page No. 2	Pages Of 4	File Under Section: 9 - 1 TEMPORARY
Revision Date: December 17, 2020 March 25, 2021		Approved By:	

Tier 1¹

- The employee has been exposed to COVID-19 1) by returning to the United States from a high risk or Level 3 country, as classified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 2) by having close contact with a person returning to the United States from a high risk or Level 3 country, as classified by CDC; or 3) by having close contact with a person who has conclusively contracted COVID-19, on or after the date the person’s symptom onset was identified.
- The employee or eligible dependent, who the employee must provide care for, has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- The employee or eligible dependent, who the employee must provide care for, is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
- The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking medical diagnosis.
- The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.
- ***The employee attends an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.***
- ***The employee experiences symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine that prevents the employee from being able to work.***

For the circumstances identified within Tier 1, the employee will be eligible for up to a 14-calendar day leave of absence, of which up to 10 days will be paid by the Agency.

Tier 2¹

- The employee has conclusively contracted COVID-19.
- The employee’s eligible dependent has conclusively contracted COVID-19, and the employee must provide care for such dependent.

For the circumstances identified within Tier 2, the employee will be eligible for a 28-calendar day leave of absence, of which up to 20 days will be paid by the Agency. This would also result in the end of leave and compensation described in Tier 1. Should the employee require additional time off as a result of contracting COVID-19, the employee may file for state disability insurance (SDI) compensation and supplement his/her SDI with an allocation of calendar year 2021 PTO.

¹RTA will comply with Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards which include, and not limited to, providing regular pay, benefits and seniority to employees during time employee is excluded from the workplace due to contracting COVID-19 at work or having been exposed to COVID-19 at work. ***RTA will also comply with SB 95 by providing full-time employees up to 80 hours of paid time off at the employee’s regular rate of pay for COVID-19 covered reasons. See page 4 of this policy for additional SB 95 information.***

Distribution: All Employees		Subject: COVID-19 LEAVE AND COMPENSATION POLICY	
Effective Date: March 26, 2020	Page No. 3	Pages Of 4	File Under Section: 9 - 1 TEMPORARY
Revision Date: December 17, 2020 March 25, 2021		Approved By:	

Tier 3

The employee's eligible dependent child's (under 18 years of age) school is verified to be closed or the childcare provider is unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions.

For the circumstance identified within Tier 3, the employee will be eligible for up to a 14-calendar day leave of absence, of which up to 10 days will be paid by the Agency

In addition, once whichever of the following occurs first, the employee will be required to return to work:

- the child's school opens;
- the employee is able to work remotely; or
- other childcare arrangements are made making employee available to return to work.

Tier 4

In accordance with HR Policy Section 3-3 – Telecommuting, exempt and non-exempt employees may work from home. This would be done with management approval and after an evaluation of whether work can be done at home is conducted.

Additional Tier Instructions/Other Information:

- Compensation will be paid at the employees' regular hourly rate/salary.
- Compensation will be based on an 8-hour day/40-hour workweek for full time employees.
- For employees who work less than full-time:
 - The allotted time off as noted in Tier 1, 2, and 3 would be based on the average number of hours worked in a week, over a 12-month look back period.
 - Compensation will be based on the average number of hours worked in a week, over a 12-month look back period.
- During approved leaves of absence as described within each Tier, the HR Policy Section 4-4 – Attendance Policy will be suspended as it relates to accumulation of attendance points that lead to disciplinary action. As such absences would be classified as "uncounted" (excused).
- Return to Work Requirements:
 - For Tiers 1 and 2, if employee is off work longer than 7 calendar days, employee may be required to seek clearance from a medical professional;
 - Employee must obtain a medical release from a health care professional stating they show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 if diagnosed; and/or
 - Employee ~~must~~ **may be required to** self-quarantine for **up to 14 days, depending on whether symptoms develop.**

Distribution: All Employees		Subject: COVID-19 LEAVE AND COMPENSATION POLICY	
Effective Date: March 26, 2020	Page No. 4	Pages Of 4	File Under Section: 9 - 1 TEMPORARY
Revision Date: December 17, 2020 March 25, 2021		Approved By:	

- if returning from a Level 3 country and CDC screening at airport did not result in direction to self-quarantine; or
- if close contact with someone who conclusively contracted COVID-19 did not result in self-quarantine from medical professional.
- Notification of exposure as described within this Policy to COVID-19, or travel from Level 3 countries by employee or by someone employee has been in close contact are required to be disclosed to Human Resources.
- Eligible dependent will be defined **by Labor Code 245.5 (c) Family Member, which includes as child, spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling.** ~~children that employee has legal guardianship of, or parent.~~
- PTO may include Sick, Vacation, or Floating Holiday. Physician certification conclusively diagnosing COVID-19 and/or proof of Level 3 country travel may be required.
- FMLA/California Family Rights Act (CFRA) protection would be designated if employee is eligible.
- **Senate Bill 95 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave: Effective January 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, provides covered full-time employees up to 80 hours of supplemental paid sick leave who are unable to work due to reasons summarized below related to COVID-19.**
 - **The covered employee is subject to a quarantine or isolation period related to COVID-19;**
 - **The covered employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;**
 - **The covered employee is attending an appointment to receive a vaccine for protection against contracting COVID-19;**
 - **The covered employee is experiencing symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine that prevent the employee from being able to work or telework;**
 - **The covered employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;**
 - **The covered employee is caring for a family member who is subject to quarantine or isolation; or**
 - **The covered employee is caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed or otherwise unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19**

Any paid time off provided to full-time employees under the Agency's COVID-19 Policy, beginning January 1, 2021, will count toward, and will not be in addition to, the 80 hours of supplemental sick leave pay required under SB 95.

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY
1825 Third Street
Riverside, CA 92507

March 25, 2020

TO: BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THRU: Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Natalie Zaragoza, Chief Procurement & Logistics Officer

SUBJECT: Authorization to Renew Agreement with David Turch and Associates for Legislative Advocacy Services

Summary: The Agency has used the firm of David Turch and Associates (DTA) as its representative at the federal level for advocacy services since April 2004. DTA is a Washington, D.C. based firm, which gives them daily access to members of Congress and other decision-makers. DTA also maintains a strong presence in the Inland Empire, representing many local and regional government agencies. The Agency's legislative services agreement with DTA will expire on June 30, 2021.

In addition to advocacy, DTA provides a variety of other professional services such as analysis and guidance on pending congressional bills, advice on federal rules and regulations that affect transit and assistance in matching the Agency's priorities with federal funding opportunities. DTA also provides logistical support in arranging appointments and scheduling meetings with members of Congress and federal agencies in Washington, D.C.

Over the past year, DTA assisted with a variety of items related to advocacy for financial relief under Corona Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan. DTA was very active in advocating for adequate transit funding on all three bills. They also spent important time coordinating with the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and the Bus Coalition promoting the Agency and partner interests by supporting transit agencies to prevent legislative and funding action detrimental to the Agency. For further details, see Attachment 1 following this staff report.

In order to continue to take full advantage of all funding opportunities and given the fact that federal dollars have become more competitive and the procedures for obtaining them more complicated, it is critical to have a professional advocacy firm like DTA continue to help advance the interests of the Agency. Now more than ever, DTA's services will be

needed to seek federal funding opportunities for the Agency due to the negative fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff recommends the renewal of DTA's contract for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The cost for DTA to provide these services is \$60,000 per year plus expenses. This amount is unchanged from the current agreement.

If approved, the Agency will be required to file the appropriate forms with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure compliance with federal lobbying provisions.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost for DTA services is \$60,000 per year plus reasonable and customary expenses. Sufficient funds to cover this request will be included in the Agency's FY22 operating budget.

Recommendation:

Authorize the following items:

- Authorize staff to execute an agreement with David Turch and Associates for legislative advocacy services at a cost of \$60,000 per year plus reasonable and customary expenses.
- Authorize staff to file the appropriate forms with the Federal Transit Administration to ensure Agency compliance with federal lobbying provisions.

David Turch and Associates

TO: Riverside Transit Agency Board of Directors
FROM: Kevin Bosch
DATE: March 16, 2021
RE: Transportation Yearly Update

David Turch and Associates provides a full range of federal advocacy services to the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA). We also work to secure federal funding through the authorization and appropriations processes and through competitive grants. David Turch and Associates protects funds allocated to RTA. In addition, we provide:

- guidance through the complex federal legislative and regulatory processes;
- reports and analysis on bills, rules and regulations;
- debriefings with and information from federal officials;
- and insight on current and emerging policy debates that affect the RTA's operations.

David Turch and Associates provides prompt and regular communication with RTA. We provide written monthly reports, regular email communication with staff, periodic telephone conversations and visits to RTA. David Turch and Associates prides itself on providing early, accurate and informed information to RTA, often supplying insight in advance of the national associations.

We monitor and report on legislative activities related to:

- Chinese involvement in transit technology and vehicles and prohibition of funds by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for Chinese equipment
- Bus driver safety
- COVID-19 relief
- 13(c) labor protection
- Congressionally directed spending
- Federal mandates
- Funding issues

David Turch and Associates worked with the offices of Congressmen Calvert, Takano, Ruiz and Senators Feinstein and Harris to have them support funding for RTA in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This law was signed on March 27 and allocated money to the local urbanized areas (UZA) of RTA: \$137 million for Riverside-San Bernardino and \$14 million for the Murrieta-Temecula-Menifee. We sent to the above Congressional offices a RTA letter of thanks for supporting transit funding.

We talked with FTA to find out when the funds would be allocated and reported back to RTA that the allocation would be in a couple of days. A copy of the FTA allocation was sent to RTA by us.

In May, the House leadership passed a bill that would have provided funding mostly for the large transit providers in the US. We alerted Congressional staff about this funding issue and how it would not provide assistance to RTA. David Turch and Associates worked very closely with RTA to make sure our message was consistent.

July 21, we worked with RTA on a letter supporting additional funding for transit providers. We also reached the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) for RTA. This letter was forwarded to Congressional offices by David Turch and Associates supporting additional funding for transit providers.

July 22, we delivered a letter signed by 19 California transit operators to the same five Congressional offices listed above. On July 31, we delivered letters to Speaker Pelosi's office requesting \$3.1 billion for just California transit agencies.

In January, David Turch and Associates reached out to the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). Our goal is to work with as many partners supporting transit agencies to prevent legislative and funding action detrimental to RTA. CTAA represents medium to small transit agencies. At the end of January, David Turch and Associates sent to RTA a CTAA letter requesting equitable transit relief funding. We also continue to partner with The Bus Coalition (TBC) to promote RTA interests.

David Turch and Associates alerted RTA to the Federal mask Executive Order by the President Biden. It is implemented by FTA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). We talked with Department of Transportation (DOT) officials to find out how it will be implemented.

The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law on March 11. This bill is estimated to provide \$72 million for the Riverside-San Bernardino UZA and \$900 thousand for the Murrieta-Temecula-Menifee UZA. We worked very closely with The Bus Coalition and the Community Transportation Association of America on equitable funding for all transit providers. Copies of the draft allocation were sent to RTA.

David Turch and Associates has discussed the likely return of congressionally directed spending with RTA. We now believe that this type of funding may return to both the appropriations and re-authorization process.