The State's Climate Policies. The Definition of Insanity?

Mike McManus, Director of Engineering Construction & Industry Relations

Recent discussions at regional planning agencies are bringing to light an under-reported fact about the future of transportation funding in California. Simply put, there is a strong tie now between what can be approved in a Region's Transportation Plan (RTP), and the need to demonstrate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's) as a result of implementing the list of transportation projects included in the RTP. This means that assuming the expansion of electric vehicles is modest in the future, the only way to get to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the region's transportation sector is to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

This is a highly technical topic, but it is at the center of the highways versus transit discussion that has re-started in our region. If we expand our existing freeways with added lanes, then we will add to the region's VMT. This means that expanding our roads to fight congestion will add to greenhouse gas emissions, which is not in compliance with state law. As we heard recently at SANDAG, that scenario would put the agency in legal jeopardy because a new RTP that includes road widening will be out of compliance with state law and therefore vulnerable to legal challenges. Who knew? This could have a major impact on the construction industry in the future.

It also brings up at least two questions. First, what percentage of the population knows that we will have congestion that will only get worse by design thanks to our state government? Secondly, are any or all of the state's new laws and policies on climate change working?

We wanted to get an answer to the second question. What we found is that AB 398. requires the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to annually report on the economic impacts and benefits of California's statutory greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goals. Those goals are that (1) statewide emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020, and must be further reduced to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. We examined the most recent
Transportation is the largest source of California's GHG emissions—mostly from light-duty passenger vehicles. The state has several categories of programs to reduce GHG's. CARB rules to reduce emissions are one category of well-known and expensive sets of programs. Another is the requirement to increase use of lower carbon fuels. However, the big one is the program to reduce VMT. It is widely believed by most observers that without reducing VMT in the state, the state's climate goals are not achievable. Which is why it seems that the state is trying to get you out of your car, and there is a movement to drop highway widening projects in favor of public transit expansions.

The centerpiece of the state's efforts in this area comes from the 2008 law SB 375, which established a new requirement for regional transportation agencies to create "Sustainable Communities Strategies" (SCS) plans as part of their long-range transportation planning. That is code for reducing VMT and "other people than me" should ride the bus or their bicycle.

Back to the report, here is what the LAO's analysis of this law says: “In short, SB 375 does not appear to be having a significant effect on statewide VMT.” This fact is in spite of SB 375's authorized spending of $1.8 billion in the last year to enact various programs to get people to ride a bike or take the bus. Also stated in the report was: "Driving Is Not Decreasing as Planned. Based on our review of available information, it appears that SB 375 likely has not had a major impact on VMT (and, consequently, GHG emissions)."

The report answers in general our two questions. The state's climate policies are not meeting GHG reduction targets, and we are spending $1.8 billion in transportation funds each year and untold billions of additional consumer costs (Californians spend an extra $1 per gallon of gas due to the state's climate policies) to achieve this failure. However, as it stands, the state's plan is to keep doing what we are doing and also stop taking steps to reduce road congestion. Really?

Albert Einstein, who was actually a genius, would say this about the geniuses we now have in Sacramento. "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results."

Everybody wants clean air and water, public safety, a quality life and opportunities to make a living. It seems our state officials have lost sight of some of the basics. These policies are creating a train wreck in the transportation sector and need to be revisited.

Here is what we would suggest:

- Start with setting goals that you actually meet with your policies.
- Make sure each policy has a tangible and measurable benefit to the taxpayers collectively.
- Each policy should do no harm economically.
Each policy needs to have a measurable reduction on GHG's and those that don't should be scrapped.

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority Seeks Volunteer for Audit Committee

The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority is seeking candidates for one public member appointment to the Audit Committee. The Committee, which meets quarterly, acts independently and is charged with oversight responsibilities for reviewing the Authority's internal controls, financial reporting obligations, operating efficiencies, ethical behavior, and regular attention to cash flows, capital expenditures, regulatory compliance, and operations.

The candidate must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

- An architect or civil engineer licensed to practice in the State of California
- Experience in the field of real estate or land economics
- Experience in managing construction of large-scale public works project
- Experience in environmental justice as it pertains to land use
- Resides within the Airport Influences Area

If you are interested in serving on the Audit Committee, please complete the Audit Committee Application and email it to the Board Services/Authority Clerk at clerk@san.org.

AGC East County Headquarters & Apprenticeship Training Center - Groundbreaking Ceremony

Join the AGC San Diego Board of Directors and staff as we break ground on the new AGC East County Headquarters & Apprenticeship Training Center on November 14, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.

All welcome to attend - please RSVP.
ONLINE PLAN ROOM FREE TRIAL
Contact:
Lisa Lovelace
Director of Plan Room Services

2019 EVENTS

NOVEMBER
Nov. 5 | Build San Diego Awards Luncheon

DECEMBER
Dec. 7 | Holiday Dinner Dance
Dec. 17 | Annual Meeting

Groundbreaking Ceremony at 3:00 p.m.
Reception to follow sponsored by Marathon Construction Corporation, RDO Equipment Company and AGC San Diego

Help us give thanks to our military families

Join AGC San Diego's Build & Serve Charitable Alliance in supporting the organization STEP (Support the Enlisted Project); a charity that supports active military, veterans, and their families.

Each year, STEP donates supplies to make a turkey dinner with all of the fixings to local military families in need. To help with this effort, AGC's Build & Serve Charitable Alliance is collecting non-perishable items to donate for STEP's Thanksgiving Dinner Program. We are asking for your help in collecting the "fixings" for Thanksgiving dinner items.

EXAMPLES OF NEEDED ITEMS
- Canned vegetables
- Canned pumpkin
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Boxed stuffing mix
- Canned yams
- Pie filling
- Gravy or gravy mix

Your non-perishable Thanksgiving favorite!

Please bring items to your office and designate someone in your office to deliver to the AGC office (6212 Ferris Square) by Friday, November 8. Thank you for supporting our Southern California military families!
MEMBER DISCOUNTS
Are you aware of the many discounts available to AGC Members?

CLICK HERE

AGC 2019 Holiday Dinner Dance

Holiday Dinner Dance at Hotel Del Coronado - Room Block/Invitation
Deadline for Room Reservations is November 15

We invite members to make plans early to attend the AGC Holiday Dinner Dance this year, and to book your room reservations with the Hotel Del Coronado. When making your room reservations below, please know that this does not register you for the AGC event. You will also need to complete the registration information on the invitation.

You may use the phone number or our personal reservation link below to reserve your rooms: 1-619-435-6611
https://book.passkey.com/e/49840029

Rates are as follows:

- Resort Room - $280

Add 11.56% Occupancy Tax & Tourism Fee. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The following additional room type upgrades are based on availability at the time of booking:

- Coastal View Guestroom - $340
- Ocean View Guestroom - $452
- Junior Suite (non-view) - $360
- Junior Suite (ocean-view) - $554
- Resort Suite with ocean view - $900
- Ocean Front Cottage Jr. Suite - $1,189
- Ocean Front Cottage Suite - $1,599

In addition, daily valet parking rates are discounted at $20, and $30 for overnight valet parking. The normal resort fee of $35 has also been waived for our group.

In the event that the room block becomes full, members can also book rooms at the Glorietta Bay Inn, directly across the street from the Del, or at the Loews Coronado Resort. Note that there are no room blocks at these locations.
Please notify AGC if your company has relocated, or if there are updates to your company's listing (i.e. contacts, phone/fax, job titles, CSI codes, & certified business listings).

Email Marcy Knopman

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Please contact Rae Krushensky at the AGC with any questions at raek@agcsd.org.

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**CLASSES**

**NOVEMBER CLASSES**

- **Nov 5**  Beginning Microsoft Excel 2016
- **Nov 5**  Prevailing Wage Certified Payroll & Compliance Training
- **Nov 5**  Stormwater Monthly Breakfast Forum
- **Nov 6**  Effective Project Engineer
- **Nov 6**  Intermediate Microsoft Excel 2016
- **Nov 7**  Advanced Microsoft Excel 2016
- **Nov 7**  Fall Protection 8-Hour Competent Person Training
- **Nov 13-14**  CQM
- **Nov 13**  Effective Project Engineer
- **Nov 14**  Traffic Control Technician
- **Nov 18**  Beginning Microsoft Workshop
- **Nov 18-20**  Fall Protection 24-Hour Competent Person Training
- **Nov 19**  Advanced Microsoft Workshop
- **Nov 19**  How to Prepare an Effective SWPPP
- **Nov 20**  CPR, First Aid & AED Training
- **Nov 20**  Effective Project Engineer
- **Nov 21**  Trenching & Excavating
- **Nov 20**  Fall Protection 8-Hour Refresher

For more information on classes, contact: Becca Schaffer at (858) 731-8155.

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the AGC office (6212 Ferris Square, San Diego, CA 92121) unless otherwise noted in red.

November Meetings

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Safety Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Build &amp; Service Charitable Alliance</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Education Committee</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Construction Leadership Council (CLC) (Job Walk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Specialty Contractors' Council (offsite)</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>County of San Diego Meeting @ County</td>
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About Monday Morning Quarterback

AGC San Diego Chapter’s Monday Morning Quarterback is a “hot off the press” and to the point Monday morning briefing on the important issues facing San Diego’s construction industry. It is prepared by AGC Chief Executive Officer, Eddie Sprecco, and Executive Vice President, Brad Barnum.

Please contact Eddie Sprecco or Brad Barnum with your comments, or with information that should be conveyed to the industry through this service. Well over 3,000 individuals employed by AGC member firms are part of this system.