



## **PM 1: Balancing Local Measure Goals with Emerging State Policies**

### **Moderator**

Will Kempton, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission

### **Panelists**

- Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, OCTA and Board Member, Mobility 21
- Ray Wolfe, Executive Director, SANBAG and Board Member, Mobility 21
- Stephanie Wiggins, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Metro
- Darren Kettle, Executive Director, VCTC and Treasurer, Mobility 21
- Kome Ajise, Chief Deputy Director, Caltrans

## **Summary**

The session's goal was to begin a dialogue of how to address important issues with respect to climate change, SB 375 compliance and Sustainable Communities, which was designed to reduce trips in concert with self-help programs. The expenditure plans approved by the voters for the self-help programs in Southern California did not include additional revenues to address these issues. Balancing these requirements with the programs approved by the voters will require significant discussions. Panel members from the self-help counties pointed out there isn't any excess revenue and that it's difficult to even deliver the program, since revenues took a steep decline in 2008. Several panel members suggested that perhaps instead of looking at it on a project-by-project basis, perhaps evaluate corridors or a package of projects. Other options with respect to existing programs is to go back to the voters to get approval to allocate funding within the program to meet the new requirements that have been adopted since the plans were approved. The self-help programs have been extended by all Southern California counties because promises made were promises kept, and deviation from this promise to the voters will likely mean that future extensions or new measures will be defeated. With respect to future measures perhaps they can be structured to meet the new requirements in a way that addresses the state's needs and that the voters will approve.

## **Takeaway**

For future sales tax measures to be successful it's important to demonstrate to the voters that promises made are kept.

Need to address operations and maintenance on a statewide basis, perhaps implementation of VMT or Regional Tax Measure to address this plus sustainability.

At the local level the voters expect accountability, trust and results-based programs to keep their support.

Future measures or extensions of existing measures should address the new regulations and sustainability. Need to work with the Secretary's office in this regard. This will require early collaboration with the state on the expenditure plans.

For California to be competitive we need to take care of the highway system and augment it as necessary.

Self-help counties need to be at the table with the state in developing a consensus on solutions to avoid gridlock and project delays.