



January 25, 2010

**To:** All Members, Transportation Policy Board

**From:** Sid Martinez

**Subject:** Director's Report

1. **“Jobs for Main Street” (possible 2<sup>nd</sup> economic stimulus program)** - In December 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “Jobs for Main Street Act”, a second economic stimulus program to create or save jobs through targeted investments, including transportation. As the bill is currently written, Texas would receive \$2.25 billion in transportation funding, with \$675 million set to be allocated to MPO selected projects. It is estimated that the San Antonio-Bexar County MPO would receive approximately the same level of funding as it received from ARRA, \$42 million. If the House bill is passed, the funding provisions will be subject to a much more restricted contracting timeline than the ARRA projects were. According to the current language, 50% of the MPO’s funding will have to be under contract within 90 days of the bill’s enactment and 100% will be need to be under contract in one year. To meet these very aggressive deadlines, projects will, again, need to be “shovel ready”. It is anticipated that the Senate will consider the bill in late February or early March. Passage of the bill is uncertain, however, since this issue is being discussed at the national level and the current contracting timelines could impact local jurisdictions, we thought it prudent to inform the Policy Board of what we know today. Staff will coordinate a meeting with our partner agencies to identify projects that may fit the proposed requirements. We will keep you posted as this issue progresses.
2. **Transportation Policy Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Years 2010 and 2011** – a schedule of TPB meeting for the next two years was included in your meeting packages. These dates will also be shown on the calendar on our website.
3. **Possible Cancellation of the February 2010 Transportation Policy Board Meeting** - at this time there are no substantive agenda items for the February 2010 Transportation Policy Board meeting so the meeting is proposed to be cancelled. If the “Jobs for Main Street Act” passes, there may be a need for the Board to meet and select “shovel ready” projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program. Additionally, if there continue to be cost underruns for current economic stimulus projects the Board may need to meet to select additional projects.
4. **MPO Office will be closed on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> in observance of President’s Day**