

December 16, 2011

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Exercise Option - State Advocacy Services Contract**

Recommendation

Authorize the Executive Director to exercise the third one-year option on Foothill Transit's State Advocacy Services Agreement No. 08-018 with Capital Representation Group at a cost of \$3,250 per month.

Analysis

On December 14, 2007, the Executive Board authorized award of a two-year contract with three one-year options to Capital Representation Group for the provision of state advocacy services. At that time, it was determined that the use of a state advocacy firm that is on the scene in Sacramento full time would be critical to our success on key legislative issues.

Over the past four years, Capital Representative Group has assisted Foothill Transit in a number of areas including securing passage of a natural gas utility users' tax (UUT) bill exempting from UUT natural gas that is used as a transit fuel, and two bills relating to the adjudication of fare evasion and passenger misconduct violations from the courts to an administrative venue, similar to the process that is currently used by cities and counties to adjudicate minor traffic offenses and parking tickets.

The 2012 calendar year is expected to be a busy one for transit in Sacramento with the ongoing state funding challenges and a state budget that is expected to again face a shortfall with transit funding being a target to bridge the gap. We anticipate the need to introduce legislation on issues specific to the goals of Foothill Transit as well as closely follow a number of statewide transit related bills expected next year. A state advocacy firm that is on the scene in Sacramento full time will provide the close attention that is critical to our success on these issues. Capital Representation Group will continue to be expected to ensure that state legislators and administrators are aware of Foothill Transit's services and the needs of the organization to provide them.

Capital Representation Group's rate during calendar year 2012 will be the same rate charged during calendar year 2011.

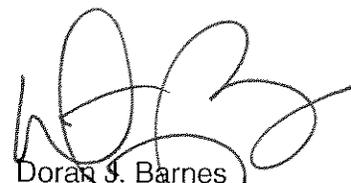
Financial Impact

The agreement with Capital Representation Group calls for a payment of \$3,250 per month resulting in an annual operating cost of \$39,000. Funds for these services have been programmed in the current Business Plan and will be programmed in Foothill Transit's FY 2013 Business Plan.

Sincerely,



David Reyno
Director of Government Relations



Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director