

WEEKLY FLASH

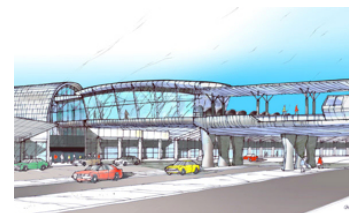
Emergency Water Transit Initiative Advances

This past Friday, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law [Senate Bill 88](#), which includes \$250 million that can be used towards funding for the Bay Area Council-sponsored emergency water transit system to help our region react to a disaster and keep our economy moving in the aftermath. The next step is to pass Senate Bill 976 which will authorize the system. SB 976 has already passed the Senate and awaits final action in the Assembly. We hope to get it passed and on the Governor's desk soon. (As a side note, the *Oakland Tribune* and its affiliate papers asked readers if they supported our initiative: 69% of readers said "yes.")



Council-Driven Public-Private Partnership at Oakland Airport

With strong growth predicted over the next 20 years, Oakland International Airport will have serious challenges getting residents and visitors physically to and from the facility. The answer was a 3.2 mile fixed guideway "[Oakland Airport Connector](#)" from the Coliseum BART Station moving hundreds of airport riders each hour, but funding ran up short. Working with Oakland City Councilman Larry Reid, Carole Ward Allen from BART and Steve Grossman from Oakland International, the Bay Area Council helped drive a "Public-Private Partnership" as a solution. The Partnership has secured \$295 million in public funding, and the BART Board will award the contract for the private partner in early 2008 to begin design and construction work soon after. The Airport Connector story can serve as a powerful example in the Council's ongoing campaign to authorize these partnerships statewide.



Members Meet Senate Finance Committee Chair

U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D-Montana) met with about 30 Council members on Thursday to discuss global warming policies, trade, transportation funding and U.S. relations with China. In addition to the Finance Committee, the Montana Senator is the senior member of the committee that writes the federal highway program, and a member of the Private Sector Solutions to Global Warming Subcommittee.



Article of the Week

This [San Diego Union Tribune article](#) explains the slim, but still possible, chance for healthcare reform this legislative session.

Quote of the Week

"This is absolutely a stunning accomplishment" – Delta-Vision-Blue-Ribbon-Task-Force member Ray Seed, [in the Contra Costa Times](#), in response to water proposals laid forth by a committee the Bay Area Council has been heavily engaged in.

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