



CAPITAL PARTNERSHIPS (VA) INC.

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“T-REX” LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SERVICE UNVEILED IN COLORADO

On November 16, 2006, State and Local supporters came together with Federal Agencies to celebrate the successful opening of the Transportation Expansion Project, “T-REX”, in metro Denver, Colorado. Altogether, the project improved 17 miles of highways and added 19 miles of Light Rail Transit to the overburdened I-25/I-225 corridor in southeast Denver, at a total cost of \$1.67 billion.

The design-build contract was awarded in 2001 to Capital Partnerships client Peter Kiewit & Sons Construction Company, in partnership with the Parsons Transportation Group. It is remarkable to note that due to Kiewit’s diligence and commitment to excellence, there were no outstanding claim orders after completion of the project, and it was completed on budget and ahead of schedule.

Capital Partnerships Senior Principal Ken Butler was proud to have been involved in helping the Southeast Business Partnership (SEBP) and the Colorado Department of Transportation work to advance funding for the Full Funding Grant Agreement from the Federal Transit Administration that financed the Light Rail portion of T-REX.

Due to his involvement, Ken was honored to be invited to attend the unveiling ceremony and was fortunate to hear Kiewit President and CEO Bruce Grewcock (*below, left*) offer remarks on the project’s success. Afterwards, Ken celebrated the occasion with Arapahoe County Commissioners and SEBP members past and present (*below, right*).



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Capital Partnerships Recognized for Accomplishments

In November, your team at Capital Partnerships was proud to receive recognition for graduating from the inaugural class of the American League of Lobbyists (A.L.L.) Lobbying Certificate Program. This program, developed in conjunction with George Mason University, consisted of eleven rigorous class sessions covering a range of valuable and timely topics – from ethics, to communications, to House and Senate procedures.

The program was designed to fill the void in ongoing educational opportunities for professional lobbyists, and serves to set the standard to which all lobbyists should be held accountable. To that end, Capital Partnerships will require any future employees to participate in the program and to receive a Professional Lobbying Certificate (PLC).

Senior Principal Ken Butler, Senior Associate Robin Angle, and Associate Amanda Kadilak were presented with their Certificates at the annual A.L.L. membership banquet in Washington, D.C. (*photo, right, courtesy of A.L.L.*).



CPI ATTENDS THE TAXICAB, LIMOUSINE & PARATRANSIT ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION

In early October 2006, the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association (TLPA) hosted its annual three-day convention in Las Vegas. The very active membership, which consists of over 1100 transportation companies, always looks forward to Ken Butler's legislative update on federal issues affecting the industry. CPI organized a visit by Congressman John Duncan, Jr. (R-TN), former Chairman, Subcommittee Water Resources and Environment, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, so that he could brief the entire convention on the latest transportation issues being debated on Capitol Hill.



Robin Angle, (*picture, left*), Senior Associate of CPI, addressed the Women In Transportation (WIT) group at their annual dinner on the topic of **“How Citizens Can Exert More Political Influence and Lobby More Effectively.”** As the dinner is now attended by as many men as women, the presentation fortunately was applicable to both!

Robin discussed the long term process of working with one's representatives to develop credibility and respect in order to effectively promote defined goals. Whether a citizen is lobbying for an individual issue or lobbying for broader issues that affect the entire TLPA, Robin suggested ten tips that will increase his/her effectiveness.

Of all the ways that constituents can communicate, face to face is still the best method. Last year the TLPA initiated a fly-in that included other associations – such as the United Motorcoach Association, the American Bus Association and the National School Transportation Association in order to form a coalition of like-minded organizations. CPI organized a two-day blitz on Congress where members of the Coalition effectively called upon their own Senators and Congressmen.

Citizens DO have the right to petition their representatives, however, now that lobby rules are becoming more restrictive, it is especially important to know what is allowed when it comes to hosting a Member or staffer. A summary article was published in the December 2006 “Dispatch”, a bi-monthly TLPA publication. For a copy of the entire report, contact Robin Angle at 703-620-1365. ❖

New Congress, New Leadership

The first session of the 110th Congress convened on January 4, 2007 under the new Democratic leadership. As the first order of business in the House, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was chosen as Speaker. This is the first time a woman has been elected to the position. Pelosi, in coordination with newly-installed House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), outlined a series of agenda items Democrats are eager to see accomplished in the first several weeks of this session.

In the House, Pelosi has been touting the “First 100 Hours,” a series of six issues that top the Democratic wish list. The package includes measures on national security, the minimum wage, stem-cell research, student loans, energy policy and prescription drug prices. On the Senate side, Senator Reid is focusing on pushing through ethics and lobbying reform legislation, in addition to the “First 100 Hours” agenda. Please be on the lookout for additional information from us as these issues are played out in Congress.

Along with these anticipated policy changes, expect to see marked differences in the House and Senate Committees with jurisdiction over transportation issues. While it is still too early to make reliable predictions on what kind of legislation may emerge from these committees, we thought it might be helpful to provide you with a general overview of who will be in charge.

Senate Appropriations Committee

Chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV)
Ranking Member Thad Chochran (R-MS)

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman David Obey (D-WI)
Ranking Member Jerry Lewis (R-CA)

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Chairman Jim Oberstar (D-MN)
Ranking Member John Mica (R-FL)

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
Ranking Member James Inhofe (R-OK)

Senate Banking Committee

Chairman Christopher Dodd (D-CT)
Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL)

Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations Status and Outlook

The 106th Congress ended its second session in December without passing the majority of its FY 2007 Appropriations bills into law – instead, passing a Continuing Resolution through February 15, 2007.

The new, Democratic Appropriations Committee chairmen from both the House and Senate recently issued a joint statement indicating that they intend to extend the Continuing Resolution through all of 2007 to simply get it off the table in order to focus on the bulk of the Democratic policy agenda.

It is unclear at this point whether special spending provisions, i.e. earmarks, already contained in FY07 bills will be protected. It has been suggested that they may be eligible for consideration, subject to new guidelines – but it is unclear as to what those guidelines might be.

We will continue to focus our attention and efforts on this issue as the first session of the 107th Congress gets underway. ❖

Minnesota's Northstar Commuter Rail Wins Victory in Congress

On September 29, a landmark victory was achieved for the Northstar Commuter Rail project, after many months of hard work in conjunction with the Minnesota House and Senate delegation. Northstar became only the fifth project nationwide to earn a legislative waiver, a crucial step that now allows the project to move towards a Full Funding Grant Agreement. (The other four projects were included in the SAFETEA-LU Transportation Authorization bill, and include the San Francisco Muni, the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor, the Wilsonville to Beaverton Commuter Rail in Oregon and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Project in Northern Virginia.)

Northstar's waiver, championed by Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN) and supported by then Senator Mark Dayton (D-MN), was successfully added to the Department of Defense National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report. The legislative waiver ensures that the project will not be subjected, retroactively, to rules changes implemented by the Federal Transit Administration midway through Northstar's federal approval process.

WELCOME CHANGES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION...

If 2007 is to be the year of change in Congress, then surely 2006 was the year of change at the Department of Transportation. We have recently seen the appointments of Richard Capka to head the Federal Highway Administration, James Simpson to head the Federal Transit Administration, Sean Connaughton to head the Federal Maritime Administration, and, with the retirement of Norman Mineta, the appointment of Mary Peters as Secretary of Transportation.

As a long-time colleague and friend of Secretary Peters, Capital Partnerships Senior Principal Ken Butler was honored to have been invited to her Presidential swearing-in ceremony in October (*photo, right*), and reports that her Administration is eager to work with us in the coming year.

Recent meetings with Administrators Capka, Simpson and Connaughton demonstrated a similar eagerness to achieve results in 2007. We look forward to an exciting and productive year!



...AND AT CPI'S HOME ON THE WEB

Within the next few weeks, we will be unveiling our newly redesigned website, which will provide a more user-friendly interface and up-to-the-minute information on topics we're closely watching. Below are some of the features you can expect:

- A client-access page that will contain Congressional bills, status reports, testimony, issue briefings and more. We will continue to send you information via traditional methods, but we hope you will be able to use this client-access page as a reliable backup resource and one-step information clearinghouse.
- A "What's Hot" sidebar that will be updated in real time as the news occurs.
- A links page that will take you to frequently-accessed and reliable websites, such as the Library of Congress' *Thomas* web portal, Federal agency websites, and more.