



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 25, 2008

TO: CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: CITY MANAGER  
SUBJECT: 2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City's 2008 State Legislative Platform was presented to the Legislative Policy Committee at a special meeting of February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Committee voted to approve the Platform and forward it to the full Council for consideration with the following modifications.

Guiding Principals – Part I - The Committee wished to indicate its support for the preservation of funding for public education, but not at the expense of municipal government which has been the case in the past. Staff recommends the following language be added:

**Preserve Funding for Public Education**

The City supports the preservation of funding for public education, but does not support the shifting of local/municipal revenues to school districts as a means of meeting the state's commitment to fund education.

Legislative Priorities - Part II - Under the priority addressing Freight Volumes and Truck Congestion the Committee wished to remove references to specific programs given as examples.

**Freight Volumes-Truck Congestion**

Significant concerns are developing over the capacity of the nation's freight transportation system to keep pace with expected growth over the next 20 years. Studies have shown that relatively small investments in the nation's freight railroads can be leveraged into large public benefits on highway infrastructure, reduction of congestion, air quality issues, etc. The I-210 Freeway is a major corridor for truck traffic and freight movement and additional congestion on this roadway has a direct impact on Pasadena. The City supports efforts such as the GO-21 program (Growth Options for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) to explore the benefits of investment in freight-rail.

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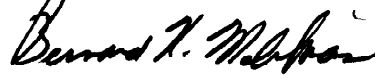
Funding Priorities – Part III – The Committee discussed modifying the Funding Priority dealing with the 710 freeway to reflect the current status of the project. Staff recommends the following:

**Completion of the 710 Freeway**

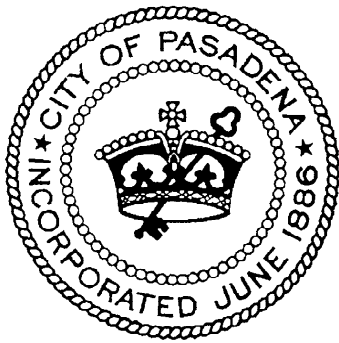
Many of the major north/south arterial streets in the southwest portion of the City are operating at capacity during peak hours with overflow traffic spilling over onto residential streets. Caltrans proposes a study of the feasibility of tunnel construction options for the SR-710 extension, examining alternate routes that appear to address the traffic circulation needs of the region. The study is designed to determine the technical, financial, environmental, and geotechnical feasibility of tunnel options. Although having reserved judgment on the tunnel alternative, Pasadena supports sufficient funding to complete this study.

Additionally, as discussed at the Committee meeting the priorities set forth in the Platform are organized by subject and not priority.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard K. Melekian  
City Manager



# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** February 25, 2008  
**THROUGH:** LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE (February 19, 2008)  
**FROM:** CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** 2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the State Legislative Platform for 2008.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City prepares a legislative platform annually to serve as the foundation for a focused advocacy strategy. The platform outlines the City's position on a broad range of current issues providing staff and lobbyists with direction to pursue advocacy during the 2008 legislative session.

As was the case last year the format presents a focused presentation of the legislative issues important to the City Council. Part I of the recommended 2008 State Legislative Platform sets forth the principles which guide the platform; specifically, the preservation of local funding and control.

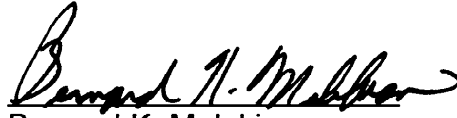
Part II of the platform identifies the City's legislative priorities for the 2008 session. Although many legislative bills are certainly to be of interest in the coming session, some will be of greater concern to the City of Pasadena. As in the past, staff will closely monitor legislation potentially impacting the City and will bring forward to the City Council recommendations on these matters.

The final portion of the platform identifies projects and programs for which the City supports additional funding. Almost all of these projects/programs have a regional impact.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for the legislative advocacy are included in the annual operating budget within the City Council office.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard K. Melekian  
City Manager

Prepared by:



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Steve Mermell  
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