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MEMO

To: TJPD Commissioners
From: David C. Blount, Legislative Liaison
Date: September 4, 2008
Reference: 2009 TJPD Legislative Program

Purpose: This memo provides an update on development of the regional legislative program and invites discussion from the Commission on legislative priorities. A draft of the proposed 2009 priorities is “in progress” and is attached for your review.

Background: Development of the regional legislative program is well underway. Staff has appeared before each local governing body and has had other discussions with locality staff to receive input and recommendations into the program. Again this year, the program is being developed earlier and legislative positions are being prioritized as a region.

Issues: Based on discussions by the Mayor and Chairs group and the various governing bodies across the region, two priorities for the coming legislative session have emerged. One is the state budget situation and the reductions in aid to localities that are in the works and that loom on the horizon, given the worsening revenue picture. The position statement urges the state to honor its funding commitments to localities and not shift costs to the local level. The second priority primarily addresses proffers and impact fees, given the debate this past session over SB 768. The position statement focuses on retaining proffer authority while requesting meaningful and workable impact fees.

Action Needed: Discuss the draft legislative program priorities and provide any input to staff on priorities and content.

Effective Date: Staff will present a final draft to the local governing bodies and the Commission in October. The annual Legislative Luncheon likely will be held on Thursday, October 23.