

CityTripDC2015

May 12 – 14

Presented by:



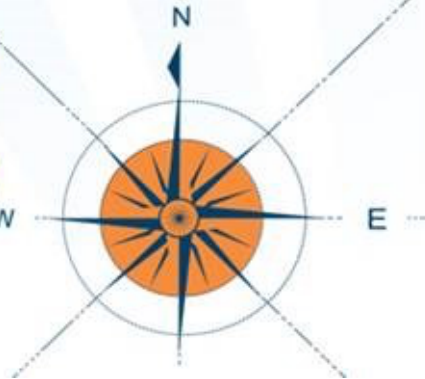
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San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

City Trip DC 2015 Federal Policy Priorities Summary



SECTION I: Secure and invest in San Francisco's critical infrastructure to ensure the City is prepared to handle natural disasters and threats from terrorism.



SECTION II: Establish, maintain, and promote energy, water rights, and energy and water efficiency.



SECTION III: Support affordable housing to ensure San Francisco remains a vibrant city accessible to all who want to live here, as well as programs that help San Franciscans avoid or exit homelessness.



SECTION IV: Pass comprehensive immigration reform. Support a Pathway to Citizenship and increase access to H1-B Visas for High Skilled Foreign Workers.



SECTION V: Invest in San Francisco's future by supporting job programs that help residents get back to work.



SECTION VI: Fully implement health care reform to ensure all San Franciscans have access to affordable health care.



SECTION VII: Promote smart development through partnerships and initiatives that encourage innovation and technology integration as well as those that streamline the regulatory process.



SECTION VIII: Support the continued funding of critical transportation and infrastructure projects as economic stimulus to create new jobs, grow the local economy, and increase connectivity throughout the Bay Area.



SECTION I



Secure and invest in San Francisco's critical infrastructure to ensure the City is prepared to handle natural disasters and threats from terrorism.

Support Earthquake Early Warning System. Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 135 (Padilla), which requires that the Office of Emergency Services develop a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system to alert Californians in advance of dangerous shaking. Currently this is an unfunded mandate and we request that the federal government provide the necessary funding for CalOES to continue to develop and implement a network for early earthquake warning.

Create and expand existing opportunities for financing assistance for seismic upgrades. Create and expand existing opportunities for financing assistance and incentives for both voluntary and mandatory seismic upgrades in the forms of grants or preferred interest rate programs. Allowing property owners to access these funds will save four times that amount in a post disaster response environment.

Pass an Earthquake Insurance Affordability Act. Experts believe that a major earthquake will occur in California within the next 30 years. Despite these risks, less than ten percent of households are covered by earthquake insurance, with most consumers citing cost as the greatest barrier. Support legislation that would increase consumer access to earthquake insurance.

Maximize Funding and Flexibility for the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

San Francisco is the Chair and Fiscal Agent for the Bay Area UASI, which distributes federal grants to 12 Bay Area Counties. The Bay Area grant award has fallen 36% since 2011, a dangerous drop that reduces resources needed to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorism threats and natural disasters. We urge FEMA and Congress to restore full funding to UASI funding for Bay Area counties and other high-density, high-threat areas across the nation to address threats from terrorism and disasters.

Protect San Francisco's Port. Support maximum funding to assist the City's port facilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats and attacks by increased funding for the Port Security Grant Program. Keep Port Security Grants separate from all other non-disaster grant programs.



SECTION II



Establish, maintain, and promote renewable energy, water rights, and energy and water efficiency.

Protect San Francisco Water Rights in the *Raker Act*. Protect San Francisco's water rights designated in the *Raker Act* and through California law. Oppose any federal efforts that may erode those rights.

Ensure Core Operations of the Power and Water Enterprise are Supported through Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Regulatory Processes. Work with FERC through regulatory processes to protect the interests of the power and water enterprises and ratepayers.

Promote Green Building Practices and Expand the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. Support Federal policy initiatives that promote use of green building practices. Continue to support the LEED Green Building Rating System and the efforts of the U.S. Green Business Council. Support extending the 179D tax deduction for energy efficiency retrofits for commercial buildings. Support PACE and other energy retrofit financing and efforts to address Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) concerns and require the agencies to offer more attractive mortgage values on energy-efficient homes. Work with the federal government to ensure the successful expansion of PACE to include residential as well as commercial properties.

Foster Investment in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Support strengthening climate change initiatives within the Energy Bill and increasing appropriations for research in renewable energy (through the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy). Support funding of the Energy Conservation Block Grant program authorized in the *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007*, as well as legislation and policies that provide incentives for energy efficiency, investment in renewable energy projects, and investments in fuel efficient and electric vehicles.

Invest in Green Infrastructure. Support legislation, such as the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act of 2011, and initiatives that create opportunities for further investment in green infrastructure, including inclusion of green infrastructure facilities into environmental and transportation planning regulations and guidance.

Advocate for Clean Air and Clean Transportation. Support congressional and administration actions that support transit, biking, and other alternatives to single-occupancy automobiles, as well as growth in the use of electric transportation and low carbon fuels.



SECTION III



Support affordable housing to ensure San Francisco remains a vibrant city accessible to all who want to live here, as well as programs that help San Franciscans avoid or exit homelessness.

Support the creation of affordable housing by ensuring the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) remains intact and ensuring the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) receives necessary funding. The LIHTC Program is an indirect federal subsidy used to finance the development of affordable rental housing for low-income households. The LIHTC Program allows housing and community development agencies to partner with investors who can provide the necessary capital for construction. San Francisco relies heavily on this program to provide necessary financing. This tax credit must remain intact, and legislation to ensure a “floor rate” for tax credits should be supported. Support HUD in crafting smart guidelines to ensure that the National Housing Trust Fund receives permanent, predictable affordable housing funding that can be used effectively in San Francisco.

Maintain HUD Entitlement Programs for Housing and Community Development. San Francisco has seen a steady decline in its annual HUD entitlements as service needs and costs have increased. Continued investment in HUD entitlement programs is crucial in the effort to fund housing and services that reduce homelessness and provide for extremely low-income individuals and those with AIDS/HIV.

Renew All Existing Housing Choice Vouchers and Section 8 Contracts. Support renewal of all existing Housing Choice Vouchers and Section 8 Contracts – especially project-based contracts – to continue to provide affordable housing for low-income households in San Francisco, one of the highest cost cities in the country.

Support Foreclosure Intervention and Housing Stabilization Efforts. San Francisco has received no federal assistance for foreclosure intervention services, and needs a substantial funding source to complement local funds. Support housing counseling under the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program and continued tax relief for homeowners at risk of foreclosure.

Maintain Funding for Senior and Disabled Affordable Housing Development. HUD Section 202 and 811 Programs provide funding for permanent affordable housing: capital funding for construction, and operating subsidies for long-term management and maintenance of buildings. This year, congress threatens to eliminate funding from the Section 202 Senior Housing Program, as already occurred for the Section 811 Program serving persons with

disabilities. Maintenance of these funding sources at the highest possible levels is critical to San Francisco senior and disabled low-income residents.

Support President Obama's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Support legislative and budgetary proposals that further the goals of the Administration's 2010 Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, as amended in 2012.

Invest in Public Housing Revitalization Programs. San Francisco's public housing stock is in need of modernization, with over \$250 million in deferred maintenance, obsolete infrastructure systems and other capital costs. Support adoption and implementation of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program to maximize mixed-finance resources that will preserve public housing. Support continued funding for Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) grants which are critical to the completion of San Francisco's Hope SF Initiative for housing development and community revitalization.





SECTION IV



Pass comprehensive immigration reform. Support a pathway to Citizenship and increase access to H1-B Visas for High Skilled Foreign Workers.

Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce supports comprehensive immigration reform which addresses our broken immigration system and works to rebuild the American economy. Support a pathway to citizenship that provides undocumented immigrants a way to earn citizenship and become legal citizens who pay taxes and participate fully in their communities. Advocate for the federal government to increase the quota for H1-B Visas to ensure San Francisco and the country's companies have access to highly skilled foreign workers.

Enable individuals we train in our world class institutions to stay and develop new technologies and industries in the United States rather than abroad. Many businesses in San Francisco are technology companies that rely on highly-skilled workers from both the United States and abroad. We must ensure our students have the opportunity to reinvest in the city where they honed their skills.

Support President Obama's 2014 Executive Action. Support President Obama's executive action deferring deportation of parents of children who are U.S. citizens or legal residents, and expanding that protection to more "DREAMers", or children who entered the country illegally with their parents.





SECTION V



Invest in San Francisco's future by supporting job programs that help residents get back to work.

Fully Support the *American Jobs Act*. President Obama's *American Jobs Act* includes tax cuts to help small businesses hire and grow, connects new job opportunities with rebuilding and modernizing infrastructure, focuses on workforce development opportunities, and provides tax relief for working families. Within the *American Jobs Act* is the "Returning Heroes" tax credit to encourage the hiring of unemployed veterans.

Provide Federal Funding for Subsidized Employment. The *American Jobs Act* builds on the success of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's* Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund by creating subsidized employment opportunities for low-income individuals. Subsidized employment programs have a triple bottom line: helping people get back to work, helping businesses to hire, and creating a stimulus effect on local economies. San Francisco's nationally recognized Jobs NOW program has successfully assisted thousands of local workers and hundreds of regional employers, but could be expanded if additional funds were available.

Support President Obama's Summer Jobs+ Program, Targeting Resources to Underserved Youth. The Summer Jobs+ Program addresses the critical need for youth employment in the United States. This initiative is a public private partnership committed to creating 180,000 jobs and internships for low-income youth ages 16-24.

Protect Funding for the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program. The SNAP E&T program provides workforce readiness services to food stamp recipients. San Francisco leverages nearly \$10 million annually from this critical funding source to help low-income individuals achieve self-sufficiency. San Francisco is one of two California counties invited to submit an application to participate in a three year federal SNAP E&T demonstration which allows greater flexibility to test innovative new strategies. If selected, San Francisco will expand its nationally recognized subsidized employment program to serve a broader number of low-income residents.

Support Implementation of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Support Other Targeted Workforce Development Programs. In 2014, Congress reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for the first time in over a decade, and proposed regulations are pending. Support the new statutory framework that strengthens ties between WIOA and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Support targeted workforce funding streams for homeless individuals, current and former foster youth, transitional aged youth, refugees, seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income people with limited skill sets.



SECTION VI



Fully implement health care reform to ensure all San Franciscans have access to affordable health care.

Fully Implement Health Care Reform. To ensure all San Franciscans have access to affordable health care, advocate for full implementation and full funding of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA)*. Oppose efforts to repeal, delay or weaken this landmark legislation.

Support Full Consumer Access to Dental Coverage Under ACA. Eliminate duplicative reviews of dental policies for ACA compliance by state insurance regulators and Marketplace agencies. Allow the same, clearly defined rules both on and off the Exchange to determine when and how medical and dental policies can be offered either separately or together, and require additional data on children's enrollments that will increase transparency as to who is getting dental coverage and how.

Oppose Efforts to Weaken Medicare and Medicaid. Oppose efforts to reduce federal funding for Medicaid administration and benefits. Oppose means-testing for Medicare and increases to Medicare Part B premium increases.

Renew the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Federal MIECHV grants were funded through March 2015. San Francisco is a grant recipient for its Nurse Family Partnership program which is currently being implemented. Support funding renewal of the MIECHV program.

Promote Increased Use of Electronic Health Records (EHR). Safety net hospitals should be granted access to accelerated Medicaid incentive payments upon documentation of plans to adopt, implement, upgrade, or meaningfully use certified electronic health record (EHR) technology, and subsequent payments upon meeting agreed-upon milestones.

Plan for Improved Long-Term Care and Increased Community-Based Capacity. Capacity-building efforts under Health Care Reform should be more broadly defined so as to include long-term services and community-based supports that are critical to maintaining health and building workforce capacity.

Reauthorize the Ryan White Treatment Extension Act (RWTEA). Support appropriation of RWTEA funding to ensure there are no service gaps between expiration of the RWTEA and implementation of the ACA. Increase funding for Ryan White programs and oppose efforts to reduce funding.

Increase Graduate Medical Education (GME) Slots and Reinstate Loan Repayment Programs.

GME slots should be increased and federal investments in the National Health Service Corps and other loan repayment programs for primary care providers should be reinstated as recruitment incentives for San Francisco medical practitioners. Primary care training should emphasize care for seniors, persons with disabilities and other special needs populations to reflect the needs of the aging US population.

Support Fully Integrated Infectious Disease Prevention, Control and Treatment Strategies.

Increase funding to achieve full integration citywide of the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, including surveillance, care, treatment, prevention and housing. Ensure adequate funding for viral hepatitis screening and treatment, and implement the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan.





SECTION VII



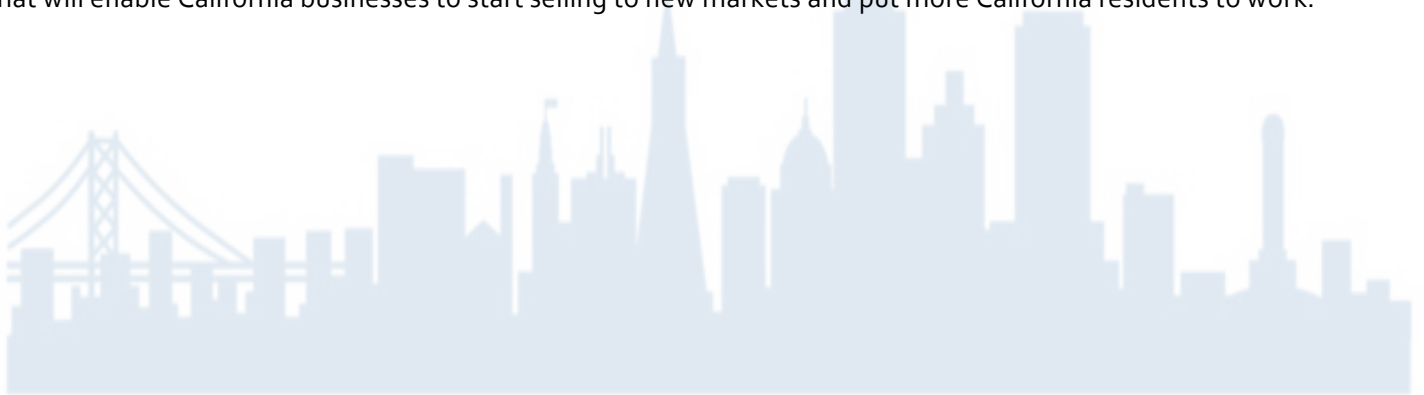
Promote smart development through partnerships and initiatives that encourage innovation and technology integration as well as those that streamline the regulatory process.

Form Partnerships with Federal Agencies and Research Institutions in Establishing an Innovation Hub at Hunters Point Shipyard. As the U.S. Navy completes remediation and the 500-acre project site is built out with new parks, transit, and infrastructure, the Shipyard will be transformed into a “living innovation zone” for design, prototyping, testing, and demonstration of new technologies. As with Mission Bay, identifying and engaging an anchoring institution is a critical next step. Federal partners such as the Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, or the Department of Defense could facilitate and participate in this transformation whether through interagency teams, demonstration projects, or establishing a physical presence on the Shipyard.

Enhance the Sharing Economy. Support San Francisco’s efforts to modernize regulations that reflect the emergence of peer-to-peer companies through the Sharing Economy Work Group.

Promote Regulatory Reform. Support the Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015 (S. 280) and the Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 185) that will streamline the federal permitting process while providing accountability, transparency, meaningful public participation and safe but swift permitting.

Support Renewal of the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). The TPA will open the door to trade deals that will enable California businesses to start selling to new markets and put more California residents to work.





SECTION VIII



Support the continued funding of critical transportation and infrastructure projects as economic stimulus to create new jobs, grow the local economy, and increase connectivity throughout the Bay Area.

Support Surface Transportation Authorization. Support maintenance of basic structure of MAP-21, but provide financial stability supporting a multi-year surface transportation bill. Work with partner Bay Area transportation agencies, Caltrans, and other statewide transportation organizations to build on the structure and performance-based framework established by MAP-21 and identify a new, permanent funding source for the Highway Trust Fund. Seek inclusion of a new program focused on metropolitan mobility, increased funding for maintaining our existing roadways and transit systems, and, most importantly, a new dedicated funding source that supports an authorization bill of a least five years. Seek inclusion of broader eligibility for projects and programs that support Vision Zero goals.

Advocate for Capital Investment Grant Funding for Priority Projects. Advocate for Capital Investment Grant ("New Starts") appropriations consistent with the full funding agreement (FFGA) approved for the Third Street Light Rail/Central Subway Project.

Preserve Mode-Neutrality in Pre-Tax Transportation Benefits. Continue to advocate for parity between the pre-tax transportation fringe benefit allowed for public transit and vanpooling and that which is allowed for parking.

Support increasing revenue to the Highway Trust Fund. President Obama's FY 2015 Budget finds revenue to fill the current Highway Trust Fund gap and increase investment in transportation. In line with the budget, support investment in key infrastructure projects including highways, transit, and passenger and freight rail.

Make High Speed Rail a Reality. Seek additional funding for High Speed Rail to support the California High Speed Rail Authority's financing plan, including early investment in Bay Area projects identified in the San Francisco/Silicon Valley Corridor Investment Strategy. Ensure Caltrain electrification as a means to make our regional rail system compatible with the coming high-speed trains.

Support Transbay Transit Center Program. The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) will continue to work with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and our Congressional delegation to secure full funding for the Downtown Rail Extension and the Transbay Program. San Francisco's new Transbay Transit Center will be a national model for transit-oriented development where jobs, housing, retail and

recreation are all close to transit. Projects like the downtown Caltrain extension connecting Caltrain and high-speed rail to Transbay should be prioritized in the New Starts process, and the next surface transportation reauthorization bill should include changes that prioritize funding for multi-modal facilities like the Transbay Transit Center. San Francisco will support the Transbay project's entry into the New Starts process, and will urge FTA to adopt a scoring system that gives increased emphasis to such factors as environmental benefits, community development and stronger intermodal connectivity. The New Starts capital investment program should be funded at the full authorized levels in MAP-21 to ensure there are adequate resources for the development of projects.

Continue to Fund the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfield Program to Complete Mission Bay. The new Mission Bay community has already begun to develop into a transit-oriented development model of smart growth, reclaiming a former industrial rail yard brownfield, and combining over 6,400 units of housing and over eight million square feet of employment and educational centers, with 49 acres of new open space and substantial infrastructure investment. At full build out, Mission Bay will provide 31,000 high quality permanent jobs in biotech, cleantech, health care, education, and other critical fields on land that would otherwise not be available for development without brownfield remediation. The EPA's Brownfield Program helps fund the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Brownfield (DTSC) revolving loan program, which has provided funding for new parks, infrastructure and stormwater treatment in Mission Bay. The continued funding of the EPA's Brownfield Program will provide vital funding to assist with the continued reclamation and redevelopment of the Mission Bay neighborhood.

Keep Treasure Island on Track. In June 2011, the City approved the Disposition and Development Agreement with Treasure Island Community Development to redevelop Treasure Island. The City intends to finalize Economic Development Conveyance Memorandum of Agreement with the Navy on terms for transfer of Treasure Island. In order to realize the terms of the agreement, it is critical that the Navy ensure that the funding required to complete cleanup is authorized and that the Navy complete its cleanup of the property in a timely manner.

Support the submission of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Application to Fund the "Southeast Waterfront Improvements" Serving Bayview Hunters Point. NEPA approvals for this project have been completed and the City expects to submit an application to the TIFIA loan program early next year. The TIFIA loan would break new ground in the creative use of local tax increment and federal financing to construct a network of multi-modal transportation improvements. The TIFIA loan would fund the key transportation corridors connecting Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood with the redevelopment at Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard.

Rebuild Harney Way as a Multi-Modal Gateway to Hunter's Point Shipyard/Candlestick Point. Support building the first segment of a Bus Rapid Transit line to connect Hunter's Point Shipyard to BART and Caltrain at a new Bayshore intermodal station. The boulevard will include two continuous tree-lined medians, separated bus rapid transit lanes, dedicated bike lanes, and generous sidewalks integrated with the redevelopment of the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area.

Require the Navy to Provide and Adhere to a Schedule for the Complete Remediation and Transfer of Hunters Point Shipyard Parcels. Redevelopment of Hunters Point Shipyard is critical to the economic development of the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood and to the City. To stay on track so that the City can deliver the significant public benefits long promised to this community, the Navy must ensure that they budget adequate funding for cleanup and stay on schedule.

Support Additional Resources for Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP) Processing at Airports. Long wait times discourage international passengers from traveling to the United States, and lengthy delays are having an enormous negative impact on our economy. Support efforts to provide CBP with the resources it needs to hire at least 3,500 additional officers and fund technological solutions such as Automated Passport Control (APC) kiosks to reduce peak wait times by 50 percent and process passengers within 30 minutes.

Reimbursable Service Agreement. Support the finalization of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) approved templates for reimbursable fee services.

Expand the Visa Waiver Program and Pass the JOLT Act (HR 1401). The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows pre-screened, pre-approved travelers from participating countries to travel to the U.S. without obtaining a visa for stays up to 90 days. The House of Representatives reintroduced the bipartisan JOLT Act to enhance the VWP and foster increased travel to the U.S. It institutes new, mandatory security requirements including stricter airport security standards, tightened passport requirements and greater data sharing among U.S. intelligence systems. The bill also grants greater flexibility to expand the VWP to countries that fully meet all of the security guidelines.

Support Travel Infrastructure Modernization. Provide a more stable funding source for air traffic control operations and support NextGen deployment to reduce air traffic congestion, improve the passenger experience and expand air service capacity.

Mobile Passport Application. Support requests by San Francisco International Airport to be one of five gateway airports in the U.S. to pilot a new authorized smartphone application to speed the international arrivals process.

Support USACE in Moving Forward on Central Basin Dredging, Continuing Authorities Program, Section 107 (CAP107). The Port of San Francisco's shipyard, located at Pier 70, is home to the largest privately-owned floating drydock on the west coast of the Americas. This drydock services both private and military vessels. However, the situation in San Francisco's Central Basin and adjacent Federal Channel has created an increasingly restrictive navigation hazard for vessels that would otherwise make use of the facility. The Port is in its second of three construction phases to dredge the Central Basin through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) CAP107 program. Support continued funding to the national USACE budget to ensure the success of this project.

