



October 30, 1996

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**FROM: JAMES de la LOZA**

**SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE PROPOSED INTERIM  
WIDENING ON THE I-5 FREEWAY BETWEEN ROUTE  
91 AND ROUTE 605 TO MTA FROM CALTRANS**

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012

213.922.6000

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 194  
Los Angeles, CA 90053

**ISSUE**

Transfer lead agency responsibility for the Environmental Assessment Study of the Proposed Interim Widening on the I-5 Freeway Between Route 91 and Route 605 from Caltrans to MTA at Caltrans' request. See attached Caltrans letter.

**BACKGROUND**

On June 15, 1995, the MTA Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$250,000 MTA funds to match \$1,000,000 FHWA Demonstration funds to Caltrans, as part of the 1995-96 Call for Projects.

On May 1, 1996, the California Transportation Commission approved the allocation of \$86.2 million (\$62.1 million in Los Angeles County, \$24.1 million in Orange County) STIP funds to construct interim HOV lanes on the I-5 Santa Ana Freeway to mitigate the traffic impacts of the 10 lanes currently under construction in Orange County to the Orange/Los Angeles county boundary. Before the interim I-5 HOV lanes can proceed, an environmental assessment must be completed.

Unfortunately, Caltrans is currently unable to conduct the environmental work with in-house staff because of other work demands. Therefore, Caltrans has requested MTA to take the lead for the project and retain a consultant for completing the required work in a timely manner. Caltrans will assume project oversight responsibility as the owner/operator of the freeway system at no cost to the MTA. MTA staff will return to the Board for approval to award the environmental study contract.

Prepared by: Raymond K. Maekawa, Director, Southeast Area  
Jimmy X. Chen, Project Manager, Southeast Area

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, 120 SO. SPRING ST.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3606  
TDD (213) 897-6610



October 16, 1996

File: 07-LA-5 P.M. 0.0/6.8  
12-ORA-5 P.M. 42.1/44.4  
EA # 16880K  
Interim HOV Lanes

Ray Maekawa  
Transportation Projects Manager  
Southeast Area Team  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Maekawa:

This letter serves as an official transmittal of the scope of work, schedule and cost estimate for the above referenced project. These have been previously submitted to you informally. Caltrans Office of Environmental Planning does not presently have adequate staff for the timely preparation and completion of the environmental document. We request that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) take the lead to commence the process of selecting a consultant. Caltrans Office of Environmental Planning will be pleased to provide oversight during the preparation of the document. On the basis of initial evaluation we have determined that the appropriate document for this project is an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) which we anticipate will lead to a Negative Declaration (ND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This letter also serves as the official notification of Caltrans intent to commence the formal scoping process before November 1, 1996 to assure that scoping will be completed before the selection of the environmental consultant.

Please refer any questions you may have to me at (213) 897-0703 or George Casen of my staff at (714) 724-2267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Kosinski".

Ron Kosinski, Chief  
Office of Environmental Planning

cc: Glenn Clinton, FHWA