



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012

213.922.6000

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

May 20, 1997

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM: JAMES L. de la LOZA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR
SOUNDWALL INSTALLATION AND FUNDING**

ISSUE

At its March 1997 meeting, the Board directed staff, in conjunction with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), to develop guidelines for when it is appropriate to construct soundwalls as part of the freeway HOV program and report back to the Board in 90 days. Work is progressing on the development of the guidelines and staff will return in August with recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Caltrans for many years has constructed soundwalls on a retrofit basis and as a part of mitigation on major highway projects. MTA staff has been aware of the retrofit soundwall program and has updated the Board on the status of the program on several occasions. However, the MTA Board has not adopted a comprehensive soundwall funding policy.

A task force of MTA staff and Caltrans staff is meeting weekly to discuss current federal, state and local soundwall policies, the HOV system program status and the financial impacts of installing soundwalls as part of the HOV system when required by regulations for mitigation. Caltrans is collecting extensive cost information which is needed to fully understand and assess the impact that a policy will have on the cost and delivery of the HOV program.

This is to advise the Board that staff clearly needs to understand the financial impact to the HOV program of a soundwall policy and therefore is unable to meet the 90-day schedule. However, staff is pleased with the progress made to date and with the cooperation received from Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration. Staff recommendations will be presented to the Board at its August meeting.

Prepared by: Steve Finnegan, Director, San Gabriel Valley Area Team
Bradford McAllester, Director, Mobility & Air Quality