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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

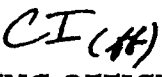
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December 20, 2006

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CAROL INGE 
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CTC-RELATED MEETINGS HELD
IN SAN FRANCISCO ON DECEMBER 13 AND 14, 2006

ISSUE

Countywide Planning and Development staff participated in the regular monthly meetings of the California Transportation Commission and the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, which were held on December 13 and 14, 2006 in San Francisco. There was no Self-Help Counties Coalition meeting this month. The following summarizes the key topics and issues addressed at these meetings.

DISCUSSION

1. CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (CTC)

2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Augmentation

The \$2 billion 2006 STIP Augmentation is the second category from the \$19.9 billion Proposition 1B state infrastructure bonds and will be distributed under the existing STIP formulas set in law. The CTC adopted the 2006 STIP Augmentation schedule and fund estimate, which includes approximately \$335 million in target funding and as much as \$467 million for Los Angeles County. The \$335 million target consists of \$228 million in State Highway Account (SHA) funds and \$107 million in Public Transportation Account (PTA) funds, which are restricted to transit capital projects only. Metro could competitively pursue an additional \$133 million in PTA funds to get to the maximum of \$467 million for Los Angeles County. Pursuing this last \$133 million could result in an interest-free advance of future Los Angeles County shares of STIP funds.

According to the adopted schedule, Metro will need to develop and submit the Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program by April 2, 2007. The CTC will hold a hearing for the Southern California counties on April 25, 2007, publish the staff recommendations on May 17, 2007, and adopt the 2006 STIP Augmentation on June 7, 2007.

Countywide Planning staff will present the 2006 Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program Augmentation for Board approval at the March 2007 Board meeting to meet the April 2, 2007 CTC deadline.

State and Local Partnerships Program

CTC staff presented the Draft State-Local Partnership Program guidelines to administer the \$1 billion category from the \$19.9 billion Proposition 1B state infrastructure bonds. Historically, the program has provided an incentive to counties that have taxed themselves locally to pay for transportation improvements. The program requires a 50% match, usually from sales taxes. However, the working group has been discussing whether to allow toll revenues to be eligible as part of the match. These guidelines will identify the CTC's policies and procedures for implementation of the program, and provide the Legislature with recommended actions, as well as guidance to agencies requesting these funds.

Countywide Planning staff is working closely with the CTC staff to ensure that Los Angeles County is equitably represented, as it is the only county to tax itself twice for transportation improvements.

State Highway Operations and Protection Program

Caltrans staff presented the Draft 10-Year State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) needs. The program is responsible for ensuring that the state highway and rail system is adequately maintained and meets all federal and state safety mandates. The program is experiencing fiscal crisis never before seen, as the gap between maintenance needs and ability to repair is growing exponentially. The 10-year need is almost \$4.5 billion; however, the funds available are just under \$2 billion. The program is primarily funded with gasoline taxes, and the entire SHA is now dedicated solely to maintain the SHOPP program. This SHOPP funding focus affects the ability to provide funds for the State Transportation Improvement Program.

The growing gap between maintenance needs and ability to repair is due to a combination of: static gasoline taxes with no indexing; budgetary cuts that require deferred maintenance; rising congestion that accelerated deterioration; volatile materials costs; and federal and state mandates. The gap will continue to grow as the system ages. Currently one-third of the entire state highway system is considered "distressed" (needing major repair or replacement) and is growing at a rate of 1,000-1,600 miles a year. Caltrans staff will be returning to the CTC with a final program for adoption.

Countywide Planning staff is working closely with Caltrans District 7 staff to ensure that Los Angeles County highway system needs are adequately addressed.

CTC Approves Amendment of \$18 Million Traffic Congestion Relief Program Funds for San Fernando Valley North-South Transit Project

The CTC approved Resolution TAA-06-61 that amends the application for the TCRP #38.2 San Fernando Valley North-South Transit project. The amendment allows Metro to program \$18 million in TCRP funds to environmentally clear the project and increase the scope-of-work to include specific improvements along Van Nuys Boulevard and Canoga Avenue railroad rights-of-way.

Request for Contract Award Extensions for Locally Administered STIP projects

The CTC approved the following extension requests in Los Angeles County:

Agency	Project	PPNO	Award Deadline	Allocation Amount	Extension Request	Extension Granted
City of Santa Monica	Pedestrian Extension to Downtown Transit Mall	07-3449	December-31-2007	\$1,836,000	12 months	8 months

Working with City of Santa Monica staff, Countywide Planning staff successfully negotiated the eight-month extension granted. Countywide Planning staff will continue to work with City staff to ensure that the terms of the CTC-granted extension are fulfilled.

Monthly Report on Local Assistance STIP Projects Previously Voted But Not Awarded

The following STIP Transportation Enhancement projects for Los Angeles County projects are subject to the twelve-month award deadlines:

- City of Redondo Beach Bay Cities Regional Bikeway \$742,000 (award by 31-March-07)
- City of Los Angeles Angel's Flight Railway \$ 292,000 (award by 30-April-07)
- City of Torrance Landscape Medians and Parkways \$808,000 (award by 31-May-07).

Next CTC Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Sacramento on January 31-February 1, 2007.

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES (RTPAs)

Representatives from the RTPAs met and discussed the continuing issues described in the following summaries.

State Transportation Infrastructure Bonds Update

The RTPAs met with Caltrans headquarters to discuss Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Program applications, selection criteria and the California Benefit/Cost model issues. Caltrans released its preliminary draft list of projects that will be recommended to the CTC for approval (see Attachment A). Caltrans received approximately \$18 billion worth of CMIA projects from the RTPAs. The list was reduced to \$6 billion, which is still above the category's statute-established amount of \$4.5 billion.

CTC staff indicated that they would not be picking projects solely from the Caltrans list. The CTC will consider the Caltrans list along with the regional agencies' applications that clearly demonstrate outstanding corridor benefits and delivery. There will be an "off-the-top" reservation for Intelligent Transportation System technology improvements as part of each district's Corridor Management Plans. The applications are due to the CTC on January 16th.

Countywide Planning staff is working closely with Caltrans and CTC staff to submit a competitive application program.

Obligation Authority

Caltrans staff presented information on Federal FY 2006-2007 Local Assistance Delivery formula obligation authority funds by county. State and federal representatives raised great concern that the RTPAs are not meeting their Local Assistance obligation authority targets, which can result in a reduced program for the next federal fiscal year. As of December 11, 2006, there have been 169 obligations totaling \$163 million and only \$114 million of that was unexpended.

NEXT STEPS

Countywide Planning staff will submit the Los Angeles County CMIA Program to the CTC on January 16th. Countywide Planning staff will continue to work closely with Business Transportation and Housing, Caltrans and CTC staff on the policy guidelines and distribution criteria for Proposition 1B and the transit-oriented development portion of Proposition 1C funds. In addition, Countywide Planning staff will present the 2006 Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program Augmentation for Board approval at its March 2007 meeting to meet the April 2, 2007 CTC deadline.