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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CAROL INGE
INTERIM CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CTC-RELATED MEETINGS HELD
IN SACRAMENTO ON FEBRUARY 1-2, 2006

ISSUE

Countywide Planning and Development staff participated in the regular monthly meetings of the California Transportation Commission (CTC), the Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC), and the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA), which were held on February 1 and 2, 2006 in Sacramento. The following summarizes the key topics and issues addressed at these meetings.

DISCUSSION

1. CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC approves reimbursement of \$14 million for Exposition Light Rail Transit Project

The CTC approved \$14 million in new Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds to reimburse a previously approved AB 1335 Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) for the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project under resolution TFP-06-01. This is the first part of a four-part, \$523 million request that Metro staff has prepared for the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project. The second part, an additional \$208 million in TCRP funds, has been scheduled for consideration at the upcoming March 16, 2006 CTC meeting. The third part is a \$315 million request in the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process to be considered on April 27, 2006. The fourth part is an allocation request for another previously approved AB 1335 LONP for \$16.7 million of TCRP reimbursement funding. We will request this fourth part at the conclusion of the final design phase of the project.

2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The \$1.81 billion, 2006 STIP Fund Estimate assumes that almost three-quarters (\$1.3 billion) of its funds will come from the Public Transportation Account (PTA). The remainder consists of State Highway Account SHA (SHA) funds and Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. The SHA funds have been prioritized for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) for safety and maintenance projects. The PTA funding source is specifically tied to transit-related uses only and is subject to annual appropriations from the State Budget. PTA funding may be diverted for General Fund needs of the State. Recent diversions of PTA funds are to be repaid from the proceeds of the tribal gaming bonds authorized under AB 687, which is pending legal clearance.

On January 30, 2006, Metro staff presented the state-funded portion of the 2006 Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program to CTC staff. In response to the preponderance of PTA funds in the 2006 STIP described above, Metro is submitting a \$315 million request for the Exposition LRT project.

On March 9, 2006 at 10:00 AM, the CTC will hold its South County hearing for the 2006 STIP in the Metro Boardroom. Metro will present the advantages of the Exposition LRT project at the hearing. The CTC is scheduled to approve the 2006 State TIP on April 27, 2006.

Tribal Gaming Bonds Update

Sunne Wright-McPeak, Secretary of the Business Transportation and Housing Agency (BT&H), presented a tribal gaming bond update. According to BT&H, the tribal gaming bonds could provide approximately \$1 billion in new transportation funds for the State. The proceeds of the bonds authorized under AB 687 would distribute the funds to the following transportation fund categories:

- \$465 million for the highway eligible categories of the STIP,
- \$290 million for the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund,
- \$123 million for the Public Transportation Account, and
- \$120 million for Local Government.

These amounts are predicated on the outcomes of the litigation and formulas authorized under AB 687. The tribal gaming bonds are still going through the legal process.

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCIES

The Regional Transportation Planning Agencies' (RPTAs) meeting reported on the implementation issues for the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in California and the scarcity of highway-eligible funds in the 2006 STIP. In addition, the RTPAs discussed the continuing issues described in the following summaries.

Governor's Strategic Growth Plan

Will Kempton, Director of Caltrans, gave an updated overview of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan (SGP). The Director outlined the various fund sources, the details regarding the

bond proposals, the funding assumptions, and the leveraging of local sales tax initiatives to augment the initial two-phased \$12 billion transportation bond. The RTPAs provided the following positions on the state bond proposal:

- Support the authorization of Public Private Partnerships and Design Build authority on appropriate capital projects, and
- Ensure that there is a Proposition 42 protection as part of the any state bond proposal emerging from the Legislature to ensure transportation revenues.

Obligation Authority

Caltrans staff presented Federal FY 2005 Local Assistance Delivery formula obligation authority funds by county. In addition, the ongoing RTPA committee reviewed various redistribution proposals for providing better accountability of funds.

Los Angeles County delivered 120% of its Federal FY 2005 target.

3. SELF-HELP COUNTIES COALITION

The Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC) met this month to discuss the Coalition Legislative Agenda that will focus primarily on opposing the suspension of Proposition 42 funds in FY 2007 and providing ongoing legislative support to transportation agencies that are developing a dedicated sales tax for transportation in their region. In addition, the SHCC had a follow-up presentation from Jim Earp representing the California Alliance for Jobs on their initiative campaign to protect Proposition 42. The California Alliance for Jobs is now circulating a petition for the November 2006 ballot. Signatures are due to the Secretary of State by May 1, 2006.

4. GoCALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN

Director Will Kempton of Caltrans and Secretary Sunne Wright-McPeak of BT&H gave an update on the *GoCalifornia*-Statewide Mobility Plan, together with the Statewide Goods Movement Action Plan. The stated vision of *GoCalifornia* is to improve mobility and accessibility for people, goods, services and information through a safe, integrated, multimodal, world-class transportation system that achieves the “3-E’s”:

- Prosperous Economy;
- Quality Environment; and
- Social Equity.

Metro staff is working with Caltrans and BT&H staff to review project proposals on the state highway and intercity rail system.

NEXT STEPS

On March 9, 2006, at 10:00 AM, the CTC will hold its South County hearing for the 2006 STIP in the Metro Boardroom. Metro is preparing for the hearings and will present the advantages of the Exposition LRT project at the hearing. On March 16, 2006 the CTC will announce the 2006 STIP allocations, and on April 27, 2006 the CTC will consider the STIP for adoption. In addition, on March 16th, Metro will be requesting a direct allocation of \$208 million in TCRP funds for the Exposition LRT project.