



PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
JUNE 21, 2001

SUBJECT: METRO FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL

ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO APPROVE METRO FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL SUPPORT AND PASS-THROUGH FUNDING FOR CALTRANS FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION

Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate an agreement with Caltrans to provide for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) services during freeway construction for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate additional hours of service with FSP Contractors at existing contract pricing and amend current contracts to provide FSP service to support Caltrans construction activities over a three-year period. This service plus a 5% administrative fee will be fully reimbursed to MTA.

ISSUE

Freeway construction activity in Los Angeles County will increase as a result of Governor Davis' \$5.3 billion Congestion Relief Plan enacted in 2001. Caltrans is anticipating that this emphasis in freeway construction activity will generate significant traffic congestion. The Governor's directive to disallow full freeway closures during construction further compounds the issue. In order to mitigate the negative impact of this additional congestion, Caltrans is required to implement a traffic management plan for its construction projects. The traffic management plans, especially on major freeway improvements, include the deployment of FSP operations as an effective and significant mitigation strategy for reducing freeway congestion. This strategy, if implemented, is funded as part of the construction project and would enable the MTA to be reimbursed for providing FSP support. Caltrans has allocated \$3,000,000 for FSP freeway construction mitigation support.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The FSP program is operated in partnership with Caltrans, CHP and MTA. The FSP operates primarily during commute periods and on heavily congested freeway segments during midday and weekends. The cost to provide construction mitigation support is not included in normal funding for FSP. The recommended construction support requested and paid by Caltrans would entail the deployment of FSP service outside these normal operational peak periods (i.e., during nights and weekends).

On one project, I-5 near Santa Clarita, FSP support has been proposed by Caltrans along a freeway segment that does not currently have normal FSP service. Provision of this support function will require that the service be competitively procured in a separate action.

OPTIONS

The Board may decide not to authorize the MTA to provide FSP construction support to Caltrans. Caltrans would then either remove FSP as part of its traffic management strategy, or will be required to contract out for a similar but non-FSP tow service. As the FSP operation is quite different from normal tow operations, it will require non-FSP contractors to go through the specific FSP training course. This option is not recommended, as it would likely increase project costs and require specialized training of contractors and their drivers. Additionally, since most freeway construction is MTA funded through the Call-for-Projects process, any additional costs associated with Caltrans providing separate tow services would ultimately have an impact to the agency.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

By entering into this three-year funding agreement, the MTA will agree to provide FSP support to Caltrans as necessary on its construction projects. The \$3 million provides \$1 million per year to support this activity. The agreement is not project or site specific; rather, the agreement provides funding for FSP support when and where it is required on an as-needed basis. In return, Caltrans agrees to reimburse the MTA a 5% administrative fee of the actual cost of providing FSP support.

The approved FY02 budget for the Metro Freeway Service Patrol tow services is \$16 million under Cost Center 3352, Project 300070, Account 50320, Task 2.03, Contract Services. An additional \$1 million has been budgeted for the FSP construction support. The additional funding provides the budget for the extra service. The actual funds will reimburse PropC-25% on an annual basis, similar to the funds received from the State for the FSP service. Because this is a multi-year contract, the Executive Officer and cost center manager will be responsible for budgeting the cost in future years.

BACKGROUND

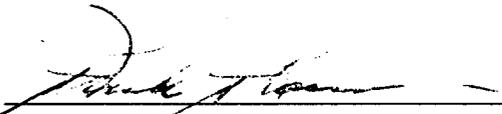
The FSP program has supported Caltrans construction activity in the past (Route 57 widening, I-10 re-pavement, Route 405 HOV widening, Route 101 downtown bridge retrofit). The majority of FSP construction support activities have been short duration and deployed during nights and/or weekends. The FSP construction support has been well received by Caltrans and CHP and its effectiveness has been incorporated into projects requiring an increased level of traffic management and oversight.

NEXT STEPS

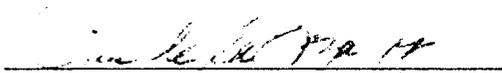
Upon approval of the recommendations presented, MTA staff will process a funding agreement with Caltrans for \$3 million. Staff will work with Caltrans to develop a schedule of FSP service deployments, so that the appropriate level of FSP can be furnished. FSP contracts will be amended as necessary to provide the freeway construction support.

The Board has requested FSP staff to transmit semi-annual reports updating the Board as to the status of the program. In addition to providing the operational statistics and benefits of the FSP program, the report will include a section listing those FSP contracts, with revised contract limits, that have been amended since the previous status report to provide Caltrans-requested freeway construction support.

Prepared by: Al Martinez, Transportation Planning Manager IV
Byron Lee, Director Highway Operations Support



FRANK FLORES,
Deputy Executive Officer
Capital Development and Programming



JAMES L. de la LOZA
Executive Officer
Countywide Planning & Development



ALLAN G. LIPSKY
Office of the Chief Executive Officer