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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *by PET*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: DOUGLAS R. FAILING, P.E. *DR F*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAY PROGRAM

**SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE NORTH COUNTY
MULTIMODAL INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION STUDY (NCMITS)**

ISSUE

During the March 28, 2013 Regular Board meeting, the Board approved a motion by Director Antonovich and Director Najarian advising staff to work collaboratively with and seek policy guidance from the North County Transportation Coalition (NCTC) in developing a work plan for the North County Multimodal Integrated Transportation Study (NCMITS). Staff was also directed to include the North County local jurisdictions, adjacent jurisdictions, transportation stakeholders, potential partners, and other interested stakeholders in the development of the NCMITS work plan.

Throughout the Spring/Summer of 2013, staff worked with NCTC and interested stakeholders on various issues that arose to determine that NCMITS would:

- (1) Examine the ground access to the airport to facilitate Palmdale's Part 139 Certification to assist the development of the Palmdale Airport Master Plan; and
- (2) Examine the Metrolink service in general, and provide input to a separate study to examine the feasibility of consolidating and relocating the Lancaster's Metrolink Station into a regional station to serve the general Antelope Valley area and hence the impact on the Metrolink service.

This memorandum outlines staff's progress in working with NCTC and its member cities to develop the scope of work for NCMITS in response to the Board's directive.

DISCUSSION

Two issues were discussed at the NCTC meeting held on August 29, 2013 in the City of Lancaster, and were agreed upon by member cities, as below:

- (1) Part 139 Recertification: Whereas our effort was to include “an airport ground access/modal connectivity study that will assist the City of Palmdale’s efforts to meet Part 139 recertification process requirements for the Palmdale Airport’s Master Plan,” the City of Lancaster insisted on this being corrected as this transportation study should not transform into a Part 139 recertification. As known, Part 139 recertification is not about transportation but about the staffing, training, and emergency planning for operating an airport. The City of Palmdale, on the other hand, was convinced that the NCMITS should assist them in Part 139 Certification as specified in the Motion that initiated the NCMITS. Upon discussion, the NCTC decided to include Lancaster’s Fox Field Airport and conduct airport ground access for both airports.

- (2) Consolidating and Relocating the Lancaster’s Metrolink Station: The City of Lancaster expressed its desire to eliminate the Lancaster Metrolink Station and proposed to use and expand the existing Palmdale Transportation Center as a “regional Metrolink and High Speed Rail Station.” The City of Palmdale, however, believed that the “consolidation of a Metrolink Station” is not a city issue and would require its own environmental clearance. Lancaster did not have a plan as to how to redevelop its Metrolink Station, but requested the NCMITS address the overall Metrolink ridership impact due to the consolidation and relocation. Upon discussion, the NCTC decided that the “consolidation and relocation of the Lancaster’s Metrolink Station” is clearly beyond the scope of work of the NCMITS, and agreed to work with Metro’s Regional Rail group, in a separate study, to determine whether a “regional Metrolink and High Speed Rail Station” is appropriate or feasible for the Antelope Valley.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to refine the scope of work for the NCMITS before procurement in October 2013.