

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
RE: Status Report on Related Highway 1 Projects

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission accept this Status Report on activities related to the Highway 1 Project, including an update of the Highway 1 Financial Plan.

DISCUSSION

Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project

Caltrans is preparing to resume right-of-way acquisition activities this Summer to secure the remaining easements to construct the soundwalls and utility relocation for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lane Project. The Project Development Team next meets in mid-May on this project.

Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project – Project Approval/Environmental Documentation (PA/ED)

As of this writing, the consultant team, staff and Caltrans are completing preparation for two Public Information Meetings in late April. The formal Quarterly Progress Report by the Consultant Project Manager has been scheduled for the June RTC meeting to allow adequate time to compile a summary of the input received at the public meetings, as well as report on the status of other major work items and the project schedule.

On other fronts, AMBAG is conducting final validation test runs of the regional travel demand model and staff is hopeful the model will be released by the end of April/ first of May. The traffic consultant is finalizing a draft existing conditions report that should be released in early May.

Through the month of April consultants have nearly completed the corridor level Historical Architectural Survey and Archaeological Survey where site assessment could not be completed from the public right-of-way. Verbal permission to enter private property was granted by the owners for 17 of 20 parcels requiring onsite inspection. Of the remaining 3 parcels; 2 are owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and staff has prepared the requisite permit application. On the remaining parcel, staff is continuing efforts to secure permission from the property owner. Staff has requested the assistance of the Real Property division of the County Public Works Agency in these contacts.

Design Build Legislation – SB 1793 (McPherson)

Following the emergency action taken by the RTC Board, to support SB 1793 (McPherson) to provide design-build authority for the Highway 1 project, staff prepared a support letter

([Attachment 1](#)) and testified in favor of the bill at the Senate Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 20th. The bill initially failed to pass out of committee when labor compliance issues were raised, however, these issues were subsequently resolved and the bill cleared the Transportation Committee on Tuesday, April 27th. The bill will next be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee as early as next week.

Highway 1 Construction Authority

The Board of Directors for the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) meets on Friday, May 7th, to review a draft budget for FY 04-05, and the status of efforts to transition responsibility for the PA/ED contract from the RTC to the HCA. County Public Works staff, serving as interim staff to the HCA, held a pre-bidders conference for prospective consultants responding to the Request for Proposals for an Administrator and staff for the HCA. The due date for submittal of proposals was extended by two weeks to May 5th. County staff remains hopeful to secure consultant services by the end of June.

Expenditure Plan Development

The draft Expenditure Plan has been released for public review following action of the RTC's Transportation Policy Workshop on April 15th. Through the month of May, staff will be soliciting input from local jurisdictions and agencies, the Commission's committees, and the general public. The public information program for the Expenditure Plan is the subject of a separate agency item.

Attached, for consideration in review of the draft Expenditure Plan, is an update of the cost estimate and financial plan for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project ([Attachment 2](#)). The cost estimate for the southern segment is based on preliminary calculations prepared by Nolte, dated January 2004, and all estimates are based on 2003 dollars.

SUMMARY

This staff report presents an update on activities related to improvements to the Highway 1 freeway. Senator McPherson's design-build legislation (SB 1793) was passed out of Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, April 27th, and will next be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Attachments:

- 1) Letter of Support for SB 1793 (McPherson) Design-Build Legislation, dated April 16, 2004.
- 2) Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project Estimated Project Cost and Financial Plan, dated May 2004.

Prepared by: Kim Shultz

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