

TO: RTC – Transportation Policy Workshop
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.

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-June.

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

As of this writing, the consultant team, staff and Caltrans are compiling comments received from resource agencies and the general public following the Public Information Meetings in late April. By all accounts, these meetings were a great success in generating input and comments on issues to analyze through the environmental studies, and the identification of evaluation measures to assist in determining the preferred alternative. The consultants will provide an overview of the comments received in their Quarterly Progress Report at the June RTC meeting.

AMBAG is completing final validation test runs of the regional travel demand model and staff is hopeful the model will be released within the next few weeks for work on traffic projections and operational analysis. Meanwhile the traffic consultant is finalizing a draft existing conditions report that should be released by the end of May.

RTC and County staff, together with Caltrans and the project consultants, are considering options relative to right-of-way issues and securing right of entry authorization to complete archaeological survey work on select parcels along the freeway corridor. Projects using state and federal funds must adhere to strict regulations on right-of-way matters or risk eligibility to use those funds.

The Project Development Team for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project next meets on Thursday, May 27th.

Design Build Legislation – SB 1793 (McPherson)

As previously announced, the Design Build bill introduced by Senator Bruce McPherson (SB 1793) successfully passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee in late April. Attachment 1 is the Transportation Committee's analysis of the bill. The bill was amended to allow one major design build highway project as a demonstration effort in each of four counties: Alameda, Santa Clara, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz Counties. The bill will next be heard in the Senate Appropriations

Committee meeting of Monday, May 17th. Staff will attend the Committee meeting and will provide an update at the TPW meeting.

Highway 1 Construction Authority

The Board of Directors for the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) met on Friday, May 7th, to receive a draft budget for FY 04-05 (Attachment 2), and a status report and timeline for securing consultant Administrative Services. As discussed in the staff report accompanying the draft budget, the first half of FY 2004-05 is dedicated to completing the start up task required for the HCA to expend State and Federal funds available for the PA/ED work. The recommended budget does not attempt to prorate expenditures for the PA/ED consultant contract or the revenues to finance that work by the HCA in FY 04-05.

Rather, a mid-year budget amendment is proposed once work is completed to authorize transfer of project activities from the RTC to the HCA, and a consultant agreement has been negotiated to provide the administrative services to the HCA and satisfy PA/ED project oversight responsibilities. The RTC will continue to provide the project management and oversight activities for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project until the transfer of authority and responsibilities to the HCA is completed.

Four proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals to provide Administrative Services to the HCA. Given the relative priority of securing authorization for the HCA to assume PA/ED oversight responsibility discussed above, County staff recommended interviews of consultants in early August, and negotiation of contracts in a September/October timeframe.

Expenditure Plan Development

The draft Expenditure Plan has been released for public review following action of the RTC's Transportation Policy Workshop in April. Support material for the Expenditure Plan was subsequently distributed by staff and is the subject of a separate item in this agenda.

SUMMARY

This staff report presents an update on activities related to improvements to the Highway 1 freeway. A summary of the findings from the Public Information Meetings for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project will be presented at the June RTC meeting as part of the Quarterly Progress Report. The proposed FY 2004-05 budget for the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) is attached (Attachment 2). The proposed budget assumes the first half of FY 2004-05 is dedicated to completing the necessary agreements for the HCA to receive and expend State and Federal funds, and the actual transition of the PA/ED work from the RTC to the HCA will be concluded in the second half of the fiscal year.

Attachments:

- 1) Analysis of SB 1793 (McPherson) Design Build Legislation by the Senate Transportation Committee.
- 2) Fiscal Year 2004-05 Proposed Budget for the Highway 1 Construction Authority, dated May 7, 2004.

Prepared by: Kim Shultz

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