

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 the Third Quarterly Progress Report from the consultant on the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project, and receive a Status Report from staff on other activities related to the Highway 1 Projects.

DISCUSSION

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.

As part of the Third Quarterly Progress Report (Attachment 1), Chris Metzger, Nolte Project Manager, will provide an overview of how the comments received in the public hearings will be used in the environmental review process. All of the comments and input received will be presented to the SCCRTC in a bound document with a summary and become part of the project record.

Meanwhile, 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. The traffic consultant has released an administrative draft of the *Existing Conditions Report* for review by Caltrans and staff, and that document will be presented to the RTC within two months.

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)

The Design Build legislation introduced by Senator Bruce McPherson (SB 1793) was heard by the Senate Appropriation Committee on Monday, May 17th and ultimately passed out of committee on a vote of 7-to-1. Staff attended the meeting and testified in favor of the bill, which received the affirmative vote of Senate President John Burton and other prominent members in the Committee.

The bill has been amended substituting San Diego County for Alameda County as a demonstration site for a design build highway construction project. Staff will continue to closely monitor the bill's progress, and share this information with the Highway 1 Construction Authority.

Highway 1 Construction Authority

The Board of Directors for the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) will meet on Friday, June 4th for a public hearing on their draft budget for FY 04-05, as presented at the May TPW meeting. As previously discussed, the first half of the HCA's proposed FY 2004-05 budget 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 HCA will address securing consultant assistance for administrative services to the HCA in the next few months. 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.

Expenditure Plan Development

The draft Expenditure Plan is the subject of the evening public hearing (see separate agenda).a.

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 on June 15, 2004

SUMMARY

This staff report presents the Third Quarterly Progress Report on the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project (Attachment 1), and status report on other activities related to the Highway 1 Projects. Senator McPherson's Design-Build legislation (SB 1793) continues to move through the State Senate. The Highway 1 Construction Authority will hold a public hearing Friday morning, June 4th, on their proposed FY 04-05 budget. A public hearing will be held on Thursday evening, June 3rd on the draft Expenditure Plan

Attachments:

- 1) Quarterly Progress Report on the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project for the period January-to-April 2004, dated May 17, 2004.

Prepared by: Kim Shultz

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