

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Tegan Speiser, Senior Transportation Planner
REGARDING: Target Date for Completion of RTC Autonomy Project

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept this status report on the RTC Autonomy Project, including an updated work plan and timeline; and
 2. Approve the new target date for separation of October 1, 2006.
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BACKGROUND

The Commission approved establishing the RTC as an autonomous governmental entity in June 2005 for reasons of operational efficiency and flexibility, direct control of the agency by the Commission, and various risk management concerns. The RTC authorized the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee to direct staff and consultants in the implementation of autonomy tasks. A Work Plan for the project was approved reflecting the target date of July 1, 2006 for achieving autonomy.

Since last summer, staff has worked closely with the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee to implement the tasks outlined in the autonomy work plan.

DISCUSSION

Today's report provides the Commission with the current RTC Autonomy Work Plan and Timeline that reflects a new separation target.

Work Plan and New Target Date: October 1, 2006

A new target date for completing the separation from the County is proposed for the following reasons. Although staff has been working diligently on a variety of autonomy tasks, delays in receiving labor relations authority, in coordinating meetings with the bargaining units and limitations in staff availability due to vacancies and higher priority projects necessitate this change. Staff believes that a new target date of October 1, 2006 is achievable. This new timeline takes into account the wishes of Commissioners who want to see RTC autonomy completed prior to the Commission taking possession of the rail line right-of-way should the RTC decide to proceed with the rail line purchase.

An updated work plan and timeline reflecting the new target date of October 1, 2006 is provided in Attachment 1. **The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend that the RTC approve the new target date of October 1, 2006 for completion of autonomy.**

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff will continue to work with the RTC's autonomy consultant, Ellen Aldridge, and County staff on implementation of the steps for RTC autonomy. All parties are interested in implementing the change in the most efficient manner possible. The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee is meeting monthly to address this project.

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff will continue to provide reports to the RTC in the future as significant information is developed or decision points are reached.

SUMMARY

A new target date of October 1, 2006 is recommended for completing RTC autonomy. The work plan and timeline have been updated to reflect this change.

Attachment 1: Updated Work Plan and Timeline