

DATE: January 11, 2007

TO: Regional Transportation Commission  
FROM: George Dondero, Executive Director  
RE: Revised Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Proposals

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Interagency Technical Advisory Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Nominate the Highway 1 Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane Project, in addition to the Highway 1 Soquel Avenue to Morrissey Boulevard Auxiliary Lanes Project, to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funds.

Staff also recommends that the RTC:

2. Nominate the Highway 1 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Avenue Auxiliary Lane Project for CMIA funding,
  3. Approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1), and
  4. Request that Caltrans program Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds to the Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane Project and the Soquel Avenue to Morrissey Boulevard Auxiliary Lanes Project.
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## **BACKGROUND**

Proposition 1B included \$4.5 billion for the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA). Initially staff proposed that the Regional Transportation Commission nominate the entire Highway 1 HOV Lane project for CMIA funding. In November the ITAC recommended that the RTC also nominate the Highway 1/9 Intersection project. At the December 7, 2006 Commission meeting, staff revised its original recommendation as the result of meetings with Caltrans and California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff. The Commission approved the revised recommendation to nominate the Highway 1 Soquel Avenue to Morrissey Boulevard Auxiliary Lanes Project. This project, which includes modifications to the Morrissey Avenue Interchange that will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and significantly reduce delays, is being co-nominated by Caltrans.

## DISCUSSION

At its December 7, 2006 meeting, the RTC deferred decision on whether or not to nominate additional projects. In reviewing Caltrans' \$6 billion project nomination list and attending CTC meetings, staff has determined that it would be worthwhile to submit two additional projects for CMIA funding directly to the CTC. Based on review of sections of the Highway 1 HOV Lane project that have independent utility and that meet the requirements of the CMIA program, **staff recommends that the RTC also nominate the Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane project and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Auxiliary Lane project for CMIA funding.** Staff has determined that all of these projects (Attachment 2) are strong candidates for the CMIA program.

The ITAC reviewed and concurred with the recommendation for the Park-Bay/Porter project at its December meeting. Notably, Caltrans District 5 has proposed Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funding for the Park-Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane and Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lane projects. However, Districts throughout the state have identified projects that far exceed available ITIP funding. **Staff recommends that the RTC send a letter to Caltrans Headquarters requesting ITIP funds for these projects.**

Staff is also discussing with District 5 potential State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funding opportunities for highway projects in Santa Cruz County. The Highway 1 Construction Authority requested that Caltrans consider SHOPP funding for the Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lane project (Attachment 3).

As discussed at prior meetings, the Highway 1/9 Intersection project is not considered a strong candidate for CMIA funding because fewer vehicles are affected by congestion at this location and this section of roadway is considered to have less interregional significance than other sections of Highway 1.

The deadline to submit CMIA nominations to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is January 16, 2007.

## SUMMARY

After several meetings with Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission (CTC), staff has determined that auxiliary lane projects from Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Avenue are strong candidates for the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) program.

### *Attachments:*

1. Resolution Nominating Highway 1 Projects for CMIA Funds
2. Map of Highway 1 Projects
3. December 5, 2006 Caltrans Letter to the Highway 1 Construction Authority