

## ADDED ITEM 24.1

AGENDA: November 1, 2007

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner

REGARDING: Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project –  
Contract Amendment for Aerial Mapping to Advance Project Design

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to amend the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project contract with Nolte and Associates, Inc., to authorize a new aerial mapping task to advance the project design and update the Scope of Services, Schedule of Fees, and Cost Proposal Worksheets, within the existing contract budget.

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### BACKGROUND

The 1986 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identified the widening of Highway 1 as a high priority project to address growing congestion along the corridor. In 2002, Caltrans identified auxiliary lanes between Soquel Avenue and Morrissey Boulevard as a relatively low cost operational improvement that would provide congestion relief to the busiest segment of Highway 1. In late 2005, the RTC received \$2.9 million in federal funds secured with the assistance of Congressman Sam Farr, which allowed preliminary work to begin on the project. Before the Project Approval/Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) phase could begin it was necessary to update the *Project Study Report*, establish independent utility from the Highway 1 HOV Lanes Project, and conduct a pre-award audit. In January 2007, a contract was executed with Nolte and Associates to begin the PA/ED work.

In March 2007, the RTC was successful in securing \$16.2 million in Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funds for the construction of the Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project. The CMIA grant together with other funding sources in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) allowed the RTC to program full funding for this project through construction. Moreover, the size of the CMIA grant allowed staff to explore the potential of expanding the original scope of the project to include modification of the Morrissey Boulevard Interchange to improve existing conditions for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

### DISCUSSION

One of the goals of the project has been to initiate construction as soon as possible after the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project is completed. Advancing the design work will help to achieve that goal. Therefore, staff recommends advancing aerial mapping and survey work, which is typically completed in the final design phase (PS&E), to the current PA/ED phase.

Survey controlled aerial photography sets the topographic mapping base for final design engineering work. Authorization to begin this work is required as soon as possible before winter weather conditions effectively postpone this task until late spring. By completing this work now, the engineering work completed as part of the PA/ED process can be directly applied to the topographic mapping, thereby accelerating the project schedule.

The funding to do the aerial mapping work, estimated to cost about \$26,000, is programmed for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 in the final design phase (PS&E) of the project. To begin the aerial mapping work immediately, staff proposes adding it to the current contract for the PA/ED phase of the project by redistributing the contract budget and changing the scope of services and cost proposal worksheets accordingly. Once the funds for the final design phase of the project become available, if needed, \$26,000 may be moved from the final design phase to the PA/ED phase in order to complete the environmental documents.

**Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a Resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to amend the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Contract with Nolte and Associates, Inc., to authorize a new aerial mapping task to advance the project design and update the Scope of Services, Schedule of Fees, and Cost Proposal Worksheets, within the existing contract budget.**

## **SUMMARY**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a Resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Nolte and Associates, Inc., for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project to authorize a new aerial mapping task to advance the project design and to update the Scope of Services, Schedule of Fees, and Cost Proposal Worksheets, within the existing contract budget.

### Attachments:

1. Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Nolte and Associates, Inc., for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project

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