

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: September 24-25, 2003

Reference No.: 2.1c.(2)
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Ross Chittenden
Acting Program Manager
Traffic Congestion Relief Program

Ref: **TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF (TCR) PROGRAM APPLICATION AMENDMENT APPROVALS, RESOLUTION TAA-03-10, AMENDING RESOLUTION TA-02-06**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve Resolution TAA-03-10 for the following Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) application amendment for \$14,000,000 in new TCR funding. The applicant agency, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), has submitted an AB 1335 Letter of No Prejudice (Letter) in accordance with the Guidelines for Letter of No Prejudice, Traffic Congestion Relief Program (Guidelines) established under Resolution G-03-12, identifying an alternate fund source allowing the project to proceed. A fact sheet describing the project is attached.

- Project #37.2 – Los Angeles Mid-City Transit Improvements; build Light Rail Transit system along Exposition Blvd. in Los Angeles County. Amend application to program an additional \$14,000,000 in TCR funding for Phase 1 – Environmental and Permits (ENV) and update schedule for Phase 1 – ENV, as well as overall project cost and schedule. Original TCR application approved under Resolution TA-02-06. The LACMTA is requesting this amendment.

BACKGROUND:

This project application amendment request is made concurrently with a request for approval of a Letter (see related item under 2.1c(4)). At its June 2003 meeting, the Commission took action to defer approval of this project application amendment under resolution TAA-03-06. The request to approve the project application amendment was deferred until such time as the State is able to resume allocations to TCRP projects, or until the applicant agency identifies an alternate funding source and proceeds with the project under an approved Letter in accordance with Guidelines adopted by the Commission under Resolution G-03-12.

Attachments

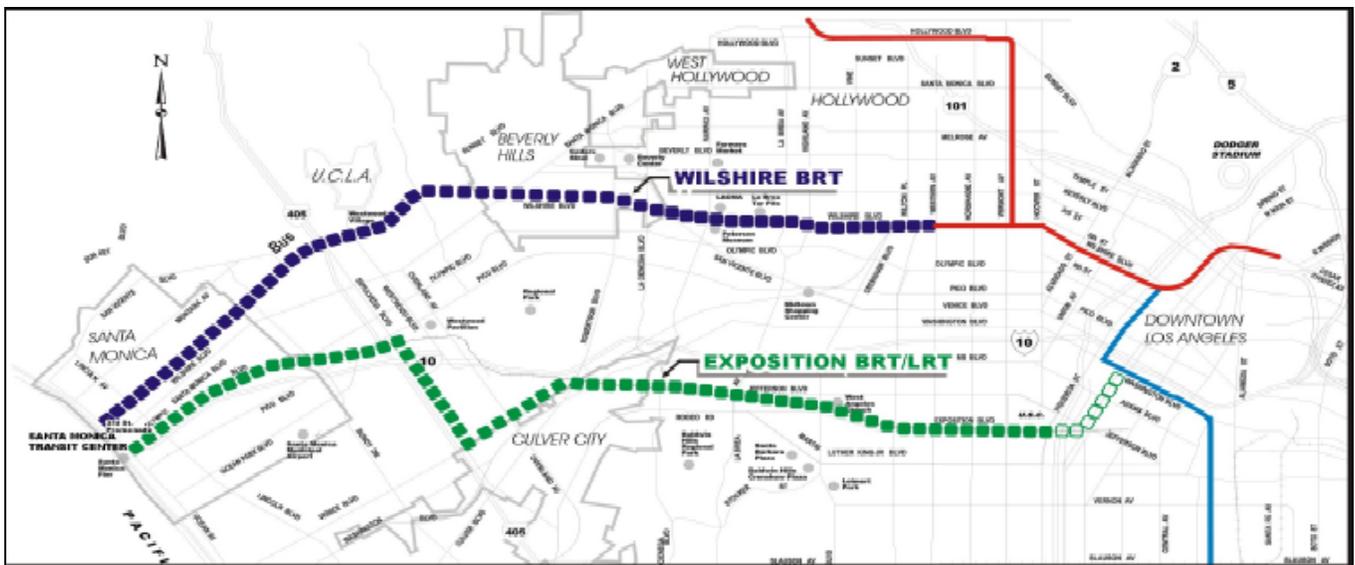
TCR Program – Application Amendment Project # 37.2

Los Angeles Los Angeles Mid-City Transit Improvements; build Bus Rapid Transit system or Light Rail Transit in Mid-City/Westside/Exposition Corridors in Los Angeles County.

(\$ X 1,000)

<i>Estimated Project Cost:</i>	\$631,500	<i>TCRP Funds Covered by Application:</i>	\$14,000
	\$343,900		
<i>TCRP Funds – Subproject #37.2:</i>	\$69,100	<i>Phases(s) Covered by Application:</i>	1
	\$27,400		
<i>TCRP Funds for Project #37:</i>	\$256,000	<i>TCR Funds Previously Approved for #37.2</i>	\$11,000
<i>Lead Agency:</i>	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)	<i>Implementing Agency:</i>	LACMTA

<i>TCRP Allocation Request Concurrent with Application:</i>	\$14,000	<i>for Phase(s):</i>	1
<i>Advance Requested:</i>	\$0	<i>for Phase(s):</i>	N/A
<i>TCRP Allocations to Date:</i>	\$11,000	<i>for Phase(s):</i>	1



Project Summary: The purpose of the Los Angeles Mid-City Transit Improvements project is to build a light rail transit (LRT) or bus rapid transit (BRT) system along the Mid-City/Westside/Exposition corridors in Los Angeles County. The project will be implemented to two sub-projects.

- Sub-Project #37.1 – BRT system along Wilshire Boulevard (Total cost = \$194,400,000, including \$186,900,000 in TCRP funding), and
- **Sub-Project #37.2** – LRT system along Exposition Boulevard (Total cost = \$631,500,000, including \$69,100,000 in TCRP funding). (The \$69,100,000 in TCRP funding proposed for #37.2 includes \$42,000,000 de-programmed from #37.1 in October 2002.)

Sub-Project #37.2 – the Mid-City LRT along Exposition Boulevard, will serve as a major east-west route connecting downtown Los Angeles to the University of Southern California and West Los Angeles ending at Venice/Robertson Boulevards. The LRT will start at the existing Metro Red Line 7th/Flower station, branching off the existing Blue Line at Washington Boulevard and Hill Street. The LRT will proceed south on Hill Street in mixed traffic to the LACMTA owned Exposition right-of-way, purchased in 1991 in anticipation of this project, where it will continue 7.7 miles to Venice/Robertson Boulevards. The LACMTA is proposing to construct this project using the design/build approach.

Amendment Summary: This application programs an additional \$14,000,000, for a total of \$25,000,000, for Phase 1 – Environmental (ENV), updates the schedule for Phase 1 - ENV, and updates the overall project financial plan. This application is being submitted concurrently with an AB 1335 Letter of No Prejudice (Letter).

Reason for Change: The additional funds for Phase 1 are to address the possibility of grade separations, a tunnel segment through Exposition Park and other enhancements to the alignment not previously planned. The increase to the overall project cost is attributed to a clearer definition of the project scope (including the full project alignment to Venice/Robertson), and current estimates for project costs (including support and contingency costs).

Note: Activities, such as Studies and the Draft EIR/EIS, were completed in conjunction with other projects in the region, prior to approval of this application, therefore costs associated with completing those activities are not reflected in the funding plan.

Cost and Schedule (\$ x 1,000)

Phase	Scope	Start	End	Cost
1	Environmental Review, Permits, Prelim Engineering	5/00	7/04	\$25,000
			10/03	\$11,000
2	Plans, Specifications and Estimates - Final Design	8/04	8/05	\$25,000
3	Right of Way Acquisition	11/03	11/04	\$4,700
4	Construct Design/Build Contract Light Rail Vehicle Acquisition	8/04	6/10	\$458,800 \$118,000
Total:				\$631,500

Funding Plan (\$ x 1,000)

Source	Type		Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Total
TCRP	State	Committed	\$25,000				\$25,000
		Proposed	\$11,000				\$11,000
PC25%	Measure	Committed				\$38,900	\$38,900
		Proposed		\$5,200		\$60,600	\$65,800
RSTP	Federal	Committed				\$39,900	\$39,900
		Proposed					
5309 New Starts	Federal	Committed					
		Proposed		\$19,800	\$4,700	\$291,100	\$315,600
CMAQ	Federal	Committed				\$34,100	\$34,100
		Proposed					
STIP - RIP	State	Committed					
		Proposed				\$112,200	\$112,200
	Totals:	Committed	\$25,000			\$134,600	\$159,600
		Proposed		\$25,000	\$4,700	\$442,200	\$471,900
		Totals:	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$4,700	\$576,800	\$631,500

Prior TCRP Action:

- Original application for Project #37 (now known as Sub-Project #37.1) was approved on January 18, 2001 (Resolution TA-01-01), for Phase 1 – Environmental Review and Permits.
- A subsequent application was approved on May 9, 2002, under Resolution TA-02-06, to split the project into two sub-projects and program Phase 1 – Environmental Review and Permits, for **Sub-Project #37.2** – Mid-City LRT system along Exposition Boulevard, to complete the Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement and start Preliminary Engineering.

Status of Conditions: No conditions.

Discussion/Issues: Phase 1 is currently underway. Due to the financial uncertainties of TCR funds, alternative funding has been identified to enable Phase 1 activities to continue on schedule. The MTA will use Local Prop C 25% funds to complete Phase 1-ENV. However, should TCR funds become available in the future, the MTA wishes to be reimbursement for any and all eligible expenses related to Phase 1-ENV activities. A Letter has

been requested to enable the allocation/reimbursement of TCR funds when they become available. The Letter is in conformance with the approved Commission Guidelines for Letter of No Prejudice, TCRP, and is recommended for concurrent approval under Reference No. 2.1c(4).

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Approval of Traffic Congestion Relief Program
Project Application Amendment

RESOLUTION TAA-03-10,
Amending Resolution TA-02-06

- 1.1 WHEREAS the Traffic Congestion Relief Act of 2000 (herein after referred to as “statute”), which was established by Chapters 91 (AB 2928) and 656 (SB 1662) of the Statutes of 2000, establishes the Traffic Congestion Relief Program, providing \$5.39 billion for projects throughout the State of California to reduce traffic congestion, provide for safe and efficient movement of goods, and provide system connectivity; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS in accordance with Government Code Section 14556.11 the California Transportation Commission (Commission) has adopted guidelines, in consultation with the Department of Transportation (Department) and regional agencies, to implement the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP); and
- 1.3 WHEREAS the statute and guidelines require applicants to specify full and complete project applications, including scope, cost and schedule, financial plans and funding sources; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS on May 9, 2002, the Commission passed Resolution TA-02-06 approving TCRP Sub-project #37.2 – Los Angeles Mid-City Transit Improvements; build Light Rail Transit system along Exposition Blvd. in Los Angeles County, for \$11,000,000 for Phase 1 – Environmental and Permits (ENV) to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA); and
- 1.5 WHEREAS the LACMTA determined that an additional \$14,000,000 is needed for Phase 1- ENV to address enhancements not previously planned with revised project schedule for Phase 1 – ENV, as well as revision to overall project schedule and financial plan; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS the LACMTA submitted an amended application for TCRP Sub-project #37.2 – Los Angeles Mid-City Transit Improvements, requesting \$14,000,000 in additional TCR funding and revised project schedule for Phase 1 - ENV, a revised overall project schedule, and an updated financial plan; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS on June 26, 2003, the Commission approved Resolution TAA-03-06 to defer approval of the LACMTA amended application until such time as the State is able to resume allocations to TCRP projects, or until the applicant agency identifies an alternate funding source and proceeds with the project under an approved AB 1335 Letter of No Prejudice (Letter); and
- 1.8 WHEREAS on August 14, 2003, the Commission approved Resolution G-03-12 adopting Guidelines for Letter of No Prejudice, Traffic Congestion Relief Program (Guidelines); and
- 1.9 WHEREAS the LACMTA has submitted a request for a Letter for Commission approval in accordance with the adopted Guidelines.

- 2.1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commission does hereby approve the following Traffic Congestion Relief Program application amendment as submitted, with subsequent clarifications and revisions:
- Project #37.2 – Los Angeles Mid-City Transit Improvements; build Light Rail Transit system along Exposition Blvd. in Los Angeles County. Amend application to program an additional \$14,000,000 in TCR funding for Phase 1 – Environmental and Permits (ENV) and update schedule for Phase 1 – ENV, as well as overall project cost and schedule.
Applicant Agency: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)
Implementing Agency: LACMTA;
- and
- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all applicant agencies shall provide the Commission and the Department with a progress report on April 1st and October 1st of each year on actual expenditures and status of work, until the projects have been completed; and
- 2.3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this TCRP project application approval by the Commission reserves the State funding for the projects as specified by the statute, and allows the applicant agencies to incur costs in accordance with the approved project application, statute and guidelines; and
- 2.4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution TA-02-06 is hereby amended.