

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: July 19-20, 2006

Reference No.: 2.8b.(1)  
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Ross A. Chittenden  
Division Chief  
Transportation Programming

Ref: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR ONE TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF PROGRAM (TCRP) PROJECT, PER FY 2005-06 TCRP ALLOCATION PLAN AND CRITERIA WAIVER-06-32**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) deny Waiver-06-32, extending the period of contract award for 6 months for TCRP Project #116 – Route 80 Light Rail Corridor; double-track Route 80 light rail line for express service in Sacramento County.

## **ISSUE:**

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) will not be able to award a construction contract by the 6-month award deadline of September 30, 2006 and is requesting an extension to March of 2007.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On March 16, 2006, the Commission allocated \$21,100,000 in TCRP funds to Project #116 for Phase 4 – Construction. In accordance with the Commission policy regarding construction allocations for FY 2005-06, construction allocations are to be limited to projects that are ready to award a construction contract within 6 months of allocation. The deadline to award a construction contract for Project #116 was established as September 30, 2006.

SacRT, in the request for the construction allocation, indicated that there “were no issues moving forward within 6 months” of the allocation of construction funds. Further, SacRT stated they anticipated “completing the project within 18 months of funding being committed via an amended Program Supplement”.

However, the project was never advertised. SacRT is now requesting an amendment to the project at this month’s Commission meeting (see related item under Reference No. 2.1c.(11)), which indicates that the project was not ready to proceed to construction when the allocation was approved in March of 2006.

The amendment requests to re-distribute a small portion of the allocated TCRP construction funds to Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) and Right of Way (R/W) and to reduce the scope of the project by decreasing the amount of double-tracking in order to complete the project within budget due to cost increases. SacRT states that although the schedule for completing PA&ED and R/W has been extended, it will not affect their ability to proceed to construction by March of 2007. This requires a 6 month extension for contract award.

The Department does recommend that the Commission approve the project application amendment under Reference No. 2.1c.(11). However, the Department is recommending that this request for an extension be denied in order to free up these TCRP funds for allocation to projects ready to proceed in accordance with the Commission's policy of awarding a contract within 6 months of allocation.

SacRT may re-apply for an allocation of construction funds upon demonstrating to the Commission that all pre-construction phases are completed and the project is ready to proceed in accordance with Commission policy.