



**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 18, 2004**

SUBJECT: LANDSCAPING POLICY FOR BIKEWAY PROJECTS

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this response to the Board motion requesting information on MTA's policy on bikeway landscaping.

ISSUE

On July 22, 2004, the Board approved Item #27 which provided additional funding for the Metro Orange Line bikeway in the San Fernando Valley. At that time, the Board requested a report back from staff on MTA practices and policies for landscaping on countywide bikeways.

DISCUSSION

In 1994, the Board approved a Countywide Bikeway Policy, which provides a number of guidelines and principles for bikeway construction. The policy states that approximately 5% of bikeway costs can be committed for landscaping. At the time that the Bikeway Policy was adopted, the majority of countywide bikeways were located in recreational areas such as beaches or parks, where existing landscaping was generally present. Therefore, a relatively modest amount of additional landscaping was identified in the policy for implementation as a part of these bikeway projects.

Since 1994, the majority of bikeways funded by the MTA have been in non-recreational areas. These projects have more often been located along drainage channels and railroad rights-of-way, which have very little, if any, existing landscaping. Therefore, Call for Projects

applications submitted by cities and the county have generally requested that a greater proportion of bikeway costs be committed for landscaping. As a result, implementation of the Call For Projects has been modified over time to allow a greater proportion of bikeway costs to be committed for landscaping. The current Call for Projects application allows for incidental landscaping. The MTA Board has approved Call projects with between 10% and 20% of the total bikeway project costs devoted to landscaping.

Metro Orange Line Bikeway- In some cases, the MTA will construct bikeways as a part of a major busway or rail line. The Metro Orange Line will include a bikeway that was funded by the Call for Projects. The City of Los Angeles applied for the grant to construct the bikeway but transferred the grant to the MTA so that the bikeway could be constructed as a part of the Metro Orange Line. In this case, the bikeway funding for landscaping will supplement busway funding for landscaping. Cyclists using this facility will also enjoy landscaping that is provided as part of the Orange Line busway project since the bikeway and busway are adjacent to each other. A review of landscaping costs for the Metro Orange Line indicates that approximately 17% of the bikeway grant will be devoted to bikeway landscaping. When the bikeway and busway landscaping are combined in the construction contract that is currently underway, approximately 12% of the total contract costs for the combined busway and bikeway are devoted to landscaping. These percentages fall within the norm for Call for Projects landscaping on countywide bikeways.

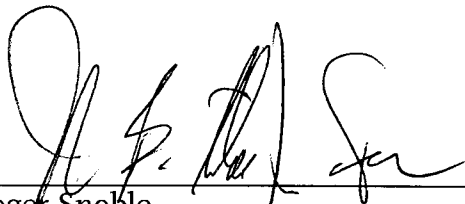
Exposition LRT Bikeway- The MTA's planned Exposition Light Rail Transit (LRT) project will also include a bikeway alongside of the transit project. The bikeway portion is funded through a previous Call for Projects grant. Again, cyclists will also enjoy the landscaping that will be provided as part of the Exposition LRT project as the two are immediately adjacent. Costs for landscaping along the Exposition right-of-way are still being developed as a part of preliminary engineering, however, it is anticipated that costs will be less than the Orange Line because the Expo right-of-way is narrower than the San Fernando Valley right-of-way and provides less available land for landscaping.

During the coming year, staff will be preparing the Countywide Bikeway Master Plan and will recommend updated policies for countywide bikeways.

Prepared by: Lynne Goldsmith, Bikeway Modal Lead
Transportation Development & Implementation



James L. de la Loza
Chief Planning Officer
Countywide Planning & Development



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer



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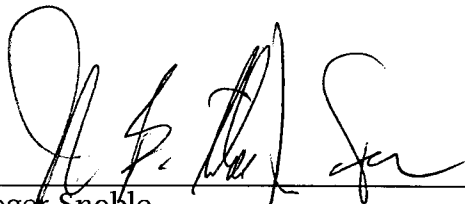
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