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PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
June 20, 2007

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUS SPEED AND STREET DESIGN
IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Direct staff to procure a contract for specialized consultant expertise to develop a Los Angeles County Bus Speed and Street Design Improvement Plan based on the summary of activities described in Attachment A.
- B. Amend the FY08 budget in the amount of \$250,000 which will be funded from Proposition A, C, and TDA Administration Funds.

ISSUE

At the January 17, 2007 Planning and Programming Committee, Countywide Planning and Development staff was directed to report back to the Board in 120 days with a scope of work, cost, time frame and implementation strategy for conducting a Los Angeles County Bus Speed and Street Design Improvement Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is consistent with the planning efforts set forth in Metro's Short Range and Long Range Transportation Plans.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could decide not to approve the recommendation. However, this is not recommended since specialized consultant expertise is necessary to identify the candidate transit corridors and the capital, engineering, and operational measures required to minimize bus passenger travel times, capital and operating costs, and project impacts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Should the Board of Directors approve recommendation "B", \$250,000 will be included in the FY08 budget which will be funded from the Proposition A, C, and TDA Administration Funds to complete the project.

DISCUSSION

Since 1985, Metro Local bus speeds have declined by 12%, leading to significant increases in Metro operating expenses and the addition of nearly 300 peak buses to compensate for the reduction in capacity resulting from the slower bus speeds. To stem the decline in bus speeds, Metro proposes to partner with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW), cities and sub-regional Council of Governments, Countywide, to produce the Los Angeles County Bus Speed and Street Design Improvement Plan. A countywide policy advisory committee will oversee and guide the progress of the plan.

The plan will develop evaluation criteria to improve bus passenger travel times and bus schedule reliability on highly congested transit corridors throughout Los Angeles County. Potential bus speed improvements include conversion of existing traffic lanes to bus-only lanes, addition of new bus-only lanes through street widening, addition of bus-only/right turn lanes at key intersections, restriction of left turn movements at selected intersections, increased parking restrictions, and engineering and operational measures including expansion of bus signal priority and traffic control operating parameters. The final report will summarize and prioritize corridors for bus speed and urban design improvements. The plan will take approximately twelve months to complete from the date of the Notice to Proceed.

Upon completion of this study, staff may consider the feasibility of developing specific options for implementing one or more priority corridors. Should further corridor-specific analysis be required, staff will return to the Board for approval to conduct a detailed corridor assessment study.

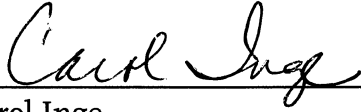
NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the recommendation, staff will establish and convene the working group, finalize the Scope of Work and initiate the contract procurement process for the Los Angeles County Bus Speed and Street Design Improvement Plan.

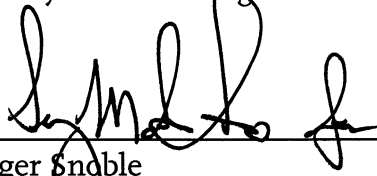
ATTACHMENT

- A. Los Angeles County Bus Speed and Street Design Improvement Plan – Summary of Activities

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUS SPEED AND STREET DESIGN IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Summary of Activities

- **Create Policy Advisory Committee.** The committee will oversee and guide the study.
- **Prepare Project Management Plan.** Prepare a Project Management Plan to ensure the timely and cost-effective completion of the study.
- **Develop Literature Search and Best Practices Report.** Review global literature, including TRB and ITE reports, on bus lanes and other bus speed improvement measures.
- **Identify Candidate Transit Corridors.** Identify and prioritize candidate transit corridors, corridor segments, and intersections which have the potential to improve bus passenger travel times and bus schedule reliability.
- **Identify Bus Speed Improvements.** Identify potential bus speed improvements for each transit corridor, corridor segment, and intersection.
- **Develop Cost/Benefit Analysis.** Assess both the operating and capital costs and benefits of the proposed bus speed improvements.
- **Identify Quality of Life Enhancements.** Develop a list of quality of life enhancements, for those bus stops along the recommended corridors, which might include public art, enhanced sidewalks, street trees and street furniture.
- **Develop Final Report.** Prepare a final report with a summary of analyses, findings, and recommendations for approval by partner agencies.
- **Schedule.** The final deliverable will be due approximately twelve months from the date of the Notice to Proceed.