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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**PLANNING & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
JULY 18, 2007**

SUBJECT: THREE NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS

ACTION: AMEND THE FY08 BUDGET TO INCLUDE THREE CALTRANS GRANTS

RECOMMENDATION

Amend Metro's FY08 budget in the amount of \$477,877 to include three Caltrans transportation planning grants. Caltrans will reimburse for the following projects:

- A. "Making the Connection: A Pedestrian and Bicycle Linkages Plan for Two Low-Income Latino and Asian Communities Adjacent to Gold Line Stations" in the amount of \$200,000;
- B. "Non-Motorized Access Plans at (6) Transit Hubs in Metropolitan Los Angeles" in the amount of \$87,877; and
- C. "From Risk to Opportunity: Using the Los Angeles Land Opportunity Tracking System (LA LOTS) Information Platform to Support Planning Efforts in Four Under-Served Communities" in the amount of \$190,000.

ISSUE

Metro was awarded three Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants totaling \$477,877. Metro has executed the necessary Fund Transfer Agreements with Caltrans. The Metro Board at its December 7, 2006 meeting adopted resolutions to accept grants A and B: "Making the Connections..." and "Non-Motorized Access Plans." Grant C, "LA LOTS," was previously approved by a standard Caltrans resolution.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The goals in the Non-Motorized Transportation elements of Metro's 2001 Long Range Transportation Plan, 2003 Short Range Transportation Plan, and 2006 Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan encourage alternatives to driving alone, thus reducing traffic congestion and supporting pedestrian and bicycle transportation. The grant funding enables

Metro to work with grant partners in preparing conceptual plans for non-motorized transportation, which is the first step in project implementation. The host jurisdictions will be able to use the plans to seek project funding.

OPTIONS

Metro could choose not to amend the FY08 budget to include these grants and jeopardize losing the funding. This option does not further Metro's stated goals.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this action will amend the FY08 budget by adding the amount of \$477,877 of revenues and expenses to Project 400225 (System/Pedestrian/Bikeway Int). These efforts will be funded from the State Highway Administration Grants program. Metro will contribute an in-kind match of 20% through staff time, printing costs, and other administrative contributions, which is already included in the FY08 budget.

BACKGROUND

A summary of each project receiving grant funds is as follows:

1. "Making the Connections – A Pedestrian and Bicycle Linkages Plan for Two Low-Income Latino and Asian Communities Adjacent to Gold Line Stations:" Metro and Livable Places, a non-profit community organization, will examine existing infrastructure and provide recommendations to improve bicycle and pedestrian access at the Chinatown and Ave. 26 (Lincoln/Cypress) Gold Line Stations. The planning areas include transit-oriented development, retail, regional parks and potential access to the LA River.
2. "Non-Motorized Access Plans at Transit Hubs in Metropolitan Los Angeles:" Metro and the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC), a non-profit community organization, will develop six (6) bike-transit hub access plans around low-income stations with high transit use. The six stations include four Metro Blue Line stations (Compton, Florence, Vernon, and Imperial/Wilmington), one Metro Orange Line station (Van Nuys), and one Metrolink station (Newhall). The project team will conduct bike and pedestrian audits, stakeholder meetings and on-site interviews. Each Plan can be used by the host city to identify obstacles and seek funds for access improvements around the hubs.
3. "LA LOTS:" Metro and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) will help four low-income communities along transit corridors to develop revitalization strategies promoting transit-oriented communities. The project will train community stakeholders in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other technical

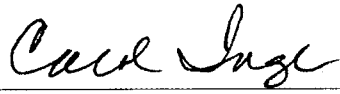
tools. These neighborhoods include Sun Valley, Reseda Village, Boyle Heights and Highland Park.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval, Metro will execute or complete contracts with Livable Places, LACBC and UCLA to complete the work.

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