

**Metro**Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation AuthorityOne Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 15, 2008****SUBJECT: EASTERN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY NORTH/SOUTH BUS SPEED  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT****ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS****RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Amend the Funding Agreement (#PSTUDYSFN) with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) for the Eastern San Fernando Valley (SFV) North/South Bus Speed Improvements project to transfer \$200,000 from Preliminary Engineering (PE) to Analysis for identification and analysis of proposed bus speed improvements along Van Nuys, Lankershim, Reseda and Sepulveda Boulevards; and
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to make additional transfers, if necessary, between the Analysis and PE within the total grant amount.

**ISSUE**

At its March 22, 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors made \$900,000 available to LADOT for the purpose of completing an analysis to identify north/south bus speed improvement projects in the four eastern San Fernando Valley corridors and any necessary PE. The Board further directed that of the \$900,000 being made available, \$250,000 was to be budgeted for the analysis with the remaining \$650,000 to be budgeted for PE and that the City shall also conduct any required environmental clearance for the improvements.

LADOT has completed its initial identification and analysis of potential bus speed improvements in each of the corridors. They have informed us that further analysis needs to be completed prior to finalizing and recommending a set of improvements for each corridor. Since sufficient funds are not remaining in the Analysis budget line item, they have requested that \$200,000 be transferred from the PE budget to cover the additional costs. This would result in \$450,000 being budgeted for the Analysis and \$450,000 being budgeted for the PE. Since the Board specified the budget line item amounts, Board approval is necessary to amend these amounts. Attachment A contains a copy of the LADOT letter requesting the amendment.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Draft 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) includes the San Fernando Valley North/South Corridors in the Constrained (funded) element with a Revenue Operations Date of 2016 for a first phase and 2026 for a second phase. A total of \$214.6 million has been reserved for the project in 2016, with an additional \$133.8 million identified in later years. The recommended actions will not affect the total amount reserved for the project, but will better define the projects under consideration for any necessary environmental assessment and will allow more outreach to seek community and stakeholder support.

## **OPTIONS**

The Board could choose not to approve LADOT's amendment request or could provide an amount less than the additional \$200,000 requested for the analysis work. Neither of these options is recommended. LADOT needs additional funds to properly analyze the benefits and impacts the proposed improvements would have on bus and traffic operations in the Lankershim, Reseda, Van Nuys and Sepulveda Corridors and to seek stakeholder support.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Sufficient funds for this project are contained in the FY 09 budget under cost center #4370, project #405513, task #04. There is no overall change to the project budget.

## **BACKGROUND**

A Funding Agreement was executed with LADOT on July 1, 2007 for the Analysis and PE phases of the Eastern San Fernando Valley Bus Speed Improvements project. This Agreement does not cover any environmental clearance work that may be necessary to implement the identified improvements.

Since the execution of the agreement, LADOT has been identifying and analyzing potential bus speed improvements that could be implemented in each of the four corridors. Significant stakeholder interest has resulted with LADOT having to expand the level of analysis and time line to complete Phase I. The expansion primarily included extensive front-end analysis of potential bus speed improvements and impacts on traffic and air emissions, in preparation for Phase II Environmental Clearance, due to the implementation of bus lanes, identification of transit enhancements along each corridor to improve on-street conditions for transit users as well as the feasibility of full-time, median bus lanes on Van Nuys Boulevard as requested by our Operations staff. In addition, LADOT conducted numerous field inspections of the transit corridors in conjunction with our Bus Operations staff, elected officials' staff and Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) committees.

LADOT has requested that \$200,000 be transferred from the PE budget to cover the additional expenses associated with the Analysis phase. They feel that the \$450,000 remaining in the PE budget should be sufficient to cover this work.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Upon Board approval, we will execute the amendment to the Eastern San Fernando Valley North/South Bus Speed Improvements project Funding Agreement. We will continue to work with LADOT as they analyze potential bus speed improvements. Upon City Council approval of the identified projects, the Board will consider their proposals. We will keep the Board apprised of LADOT's progress at appropriate times in the project development process.

### **ATTACHMENT**

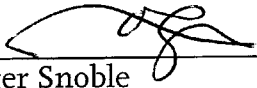
- A. LADOT Letter Formally Requesting the Amendment

Prepared by: Walt Davis, Transportation Planning Manager  
Brian Lin, Director, San Fernando Valley/North County Area Team  
Renee Berlin, Executive Officer, Transportation Development and Implementation



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Carol Inge  
Chief Planning Officer



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Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

## ATTACHMENT A

RITA ROBINSON  
GENERAL MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

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September 23, 2008

Carol Inge, Chief Planning Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-5  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

### **RE: REQUEST TO AMEND FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR SAN FERNANDO VALLEY NORTH-SOUTH BUS SPEED IMPROVEMENTS**

As you know, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) are currently parties to a Funding Agreement for planning and preliminary engineering work for the San Fernando Valley North-South Bus Speed Improvements (Project.) Work on the Project is well underway, and Phase I Bus Speed Improvement Analysis is nearly complete. Staff is currently preparing Phase I recommendations for the Los Angeles City Council and Metro Board.

The Project's Funding Agreement, dated July 1, 2007, anticipated a termination date of August 30, 2008. However, for a variety of reasons, including widespread interest in the Project among elected officials, the business community and Metro's bus operations staff, the scope and timeline of the Phase I work has expanded significantly over the past year. LADOT has conducted several field inspections of the transit corridors in conjunction with Metro bus operations staff and also given numerous briefings to elected officials' staff and VICA committees.

The expansion of the Phase I work has primarily included a feasibility analysis of full-time, median bus lanes on Van Nuys Boulevard as requested by Metro's bus operations staff; extensive front-end analyses of potential bus speed improvements and impacts on traffic and air emissions due to the implementation of bus lanes, in preparation for Phase II Environmental Clearance; and, identification of transit enhancements along each corridor to improve on-street conditions for transit users.

Because of this expansion in the Phase I scope of work, we request that the Agreement's termination date be extended to June 30, 2010, to accommodate the longer period needed to complete the Phase I Bus Speed Improvement Analysis as well as Phase III Preliminary Engineering, further down the line.

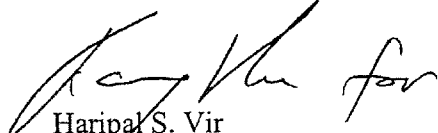
We also request that the budget be changed to 1) allocate \$450,000 to the Phase I Bus Speed Improvement Analysis, up from \$250,000 in the original Funding Agreement, and 2) allocate \$450,000 to Phase III Preliminary Engineering, down from \$650,000 in the original Funding Agreement. This will allow the City to cover its expenditures for our expanded work on Phase I. We expect that \$450,000 will still be sufficient to cover Preliminary Engineering for the Project.

Carol Inge

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September 23, 2008

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Kang Hu (213-972-8627) or Susan Bok (213-972-8623) of my staff with any questions about the Project or this request.



Haripal S. Vir  
Principal Transportation Engineer