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LA City Council Supports our Half-Cent Sales Tax Efforts

Today, the Los Angeles City Council adopted a substitute resolution, as amended, supporting our efforts to place a half cent sales tax on the November ballot. Councilmembers Greuel and Parks were instrumental in leading the support for the sales tax. The substitute resolution deleted the specific references to projects contained in the original resolution that the Rules and Government Committee approved last week. Councilmember Huizar also agreed to remove his committee approved amendment to include the Downtown LA Street Car for sales tax funding consideration. The vote was 10 to 3 to adopt the substitute resolution. Councilmembers Alarcon and Cardenas voted in opposition citing the need for project guarantees. Councilmember Alarcon also expressed concerns that we have not addressed the needs of the East San Fernando Valley and stated that previous funding had not been allocated to this area. Councilmember Zine also voted in opposition. The amendment, submitted by Councilmember Reyes and unanimously approved, requested that the Board form a working group with the City to develop a construction schedule for the permanent relocation of our Division 21 (Midway) Gold Line Rail Yard.

CTC Meeting Set for July 23, 2008 at MWD

On Wednesday July 23, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Thursday, July 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will hold its meeting at the Metropolitan Water District building. At approximately 2:00

PM, Director Fasana and I will provide welcoming remarks and show a brief video presentation on our Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative. Following our presentation, the CTC will discuss eligibility of proposed program within AB 1467 guidelines which would allow us to seek legislation to enable the development and operation of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes for LA County.

Other CTC items of interest to us include:

- Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Project and Baseline Agreement amendments to the:
    - Interstate 5, Route 134 to Route 170 project carpool lane project; and
    - Interstate 5, from Orange County Line to Route 605 carpool and widening project.
- Proposition 1B Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA) Program hearing.
- Approval of $43.8 million for an AB 3090 Reimbursement for the Eastside LRT Project. This reimbursement is based on a prior agreement to reimburse us at the April 2003 CTC meeting.
- Approval for $8.3 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for us to continue its Planning, Programming and Monitoring of STIP funded projects and programs.

Caltrans is recommending deferring all the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) Allocation requests this month including:

- $1,790,000 LACMTA Project # 51 - Route 101/405; add auxiliary lane and widen ramp through freeway interchange in Sherman Oaks in Los Angeles County.
- $9,648,000 LACMTA Project # 52 - Route 405; add HOV and auxiliary lanes for 1 mile in West Los Angeles, from Waterford Avenue to Route 10 in Los Angeles County.
- $61,851,000 Caltrans D7 Project #40 – Route 10; add HOV lanes on San Bernardino Freeway over Kellogg Hill, near Pomona, Route 605 to Route 57 in Los Angeles County.

Board members who wish to attend may contact my office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Media Inquiry Regarding Bike Ridership on Public Transportation

The Wall Street Journal is working on a story on the surge of bike ridership across the country. As part of the story, the reporter interviewed Planning staff today about the increase of bicyclist on Metro buses. The reporter asked if we have had any discussion about adding triple racks to buses. The reporter was told bus operations have studied the feasibility of triple racks and for safety reason they selected not to

go with triple racks. The concern is with patrons attempting to remove the middle bike would create a safety problem. Buses on the Metro Orange Line have triple racks because it runs on a dedicated bus way. Staff informed the reporter that Long Beach Transit also has triple bike racks on its buses. The reporter was told there has been an increase in people calling to request more racks be made available including placing racks inside of buses. Staff responded bike racks inside buses is problematic especially if the bus is full. The reporter was told we are promoting folding bikes as an alternative to shortage of space on the system. As we continue to look at the use of folding bikes planning staff will be meeting next week with folding bike vendors. The story is expected to run soon.

Media Inquiry on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Restoration Project

Today, Media Relations received an inquiry from the Hollywood Independent Newspaper about the Hollywood Walk of Fame restoration project. The reporter was told the damages were caused by heat expansion and the use of inadequate expansion joints. Most of the stars were placed along the Walk of Fame over 50 years ago.

The reporter was told that we are working in a cooperative effort with the Hollywood Chamber, Hollywood Historic Trust, Community Redevelopment Agency and the Los Angeles City Bureau of Engineering on the restoration of the walk. A press conference headed by the Hollywood Chamber and Friends of the Walk is scheduled for next Tuesday, July 22nd. The story will run next Thursday.

Next Week's Procurement Postings

<u>IFB to Procure Design and Construction Services for the Metro Gold Line Pomona Atlantic Parking Structure</u>

We have released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Design and Construction Services for the Metro Gold Line Pomona Atlantic Parking Structure. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from July 15 through September 16, 2008.

Design and construction services are required for a Park and Ride Facility at Pomona/Atlantic Station. In March 2005, the Board of Directors approved funding for a 200-car parking structure at the Pomona/Atlantic site under the Gold Line Eastside Extension Enhancements and Mitigation budget.

Any inquires concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Valerie Dean, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-1032.

IFB to Procure a Union Switch and Signal Spare Parts Package

We will release an Invitation for Bids next week to procure a Union Switch and Signal Spare Parts Package. The procurement process blackout is expected to run from July 25 through September 31, 2008.

The Spare Parts package is used on the Metro Gold Line Light Rail Vehicles

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Sherri Jackson, Procurement Planning Administrator, at (213) 922-1025.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will be meeting individually with Directors Antonovich, Burke, Fleming, Knabe, Najarian, O'Connor, Villaraigosa, and Yaroslavsky . I will also participate in the California Transportation Commission Public Hearing on Congestion Pricing.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888
Fax: 213-922-7447