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## CTC Staff Proposes \$1.17 Billion for LA County Freeways

- Recommendation up from \$327 million, but Metro will seek a 'fair share' of the funding

(Feb. 27, 2007) Los Angeles County would receive \$1.17 billion for freeway improvements under revised staff recommendations released Monday by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

Metro officials expressed appreciation for the boost in the funding recommendation from the original \$327 million, but said they would continue to seek additional dollars.

If approved by the CTC, the recommended funding would provide:

- \$730 million for the I-405 Northbound Carpool lane, and
- \$387 million for the I-5 Carpool and general lanes between the I-605 Freeway and the Orange County line.

Instead of meeting less than 20 percent of Metro's funding request, the revised recommendations would provide LA County with approximately 43.3 percent of the \$2.7 billion share of the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) bond proceeds earmarked for counties in Southern California.

However, the revised recommended list does not include CMIA funding for the following projects:

- \$97.3 million for the I-10 Carpool Lane/EI Monte Busway extension project from Puente Ave. to Citrus St. (\$97.3 mil), and
- \$73 million for the I-5 Carpool Lanes from Route 134 to Route 170.

## 'Unbearable traffic congestion'

"Just as commuters on the 405 and 5 Freeways endure significant traffic congestion each day, the 10 Freeway creates unbearable traffic congestion and pollution for many of the very voters who voted for Proposition 1B," said Board Chair and County Supervisor Gloria Molina in a statement released Monday. "They, too, are entitled to a share of this funding."

In a statement also released Monday, CEO Roger Snoble said, "While we are appreciative of the CTC staff's revised recommendations...we are disappointed that other important transportation initiatives failed to be recognized."

"The revised recommendations are a step in the right direction and we remain hopeful that other important congestion mitigation projects along the I-10 and I-5 freeways will get the attention they need to become reality," he continued. "We plan to make our case before the commissioners of the CTC at their meeting on Wednesday (Feb. 28, in Irvine) in hopes of getting Los Angeles' fair share of these important transportation dollars."

In a note to Metro Board members, Snoble said the CTC's revised staff recommendations are still not proportionate to the county's population (44.2 percent) and congestion (48.7 percent) share in Southern California.

If approved by the CTC, the staff recommendation would fully program the entire \$4.5 billion CMIA program instead of \$2.8 billion as originally recommended.