

**Metro**

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 19, 2005**

**SUBJECT: METRO BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file this progress report on the Metro Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan.

**ISSUE**

This report is an update on the status of Metro's Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan (BTSP), which will replace a 10-year old Bicycle Policy Document and six area bicycle plans. The project consultant contract was executed in August 2004 and will be completed by December 2005. The BTSP is in two volumes: Volume I, the Strategic Plan and Volume II, the Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Document.

**DISCUSSION**

In 2003, Metro received two Community Based Transportation Planning Grants from Caltrans:

1. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) to provide an increased level of public input for the upcoming BTSP, and
2. In partnership with Bikestation® to lay the groundwork for the development of a network of Bike-Transit Centers along Metro transit lines throughout the County.

The two grants included a collaborative planning process with participation from various community stakeholders to guide bicycle policy and infrastructure development. As part of this process, the stakeholders highlighted that linking bicycles to transit was seen as the most effective way to leverage Metro investments, increase the reach of bicyclists by reducing the "last mile challenge" in getting to and/or from transit, and improving the air quality and health of the county as a whole by promoting more alternative mobility options.

The grants have produced two documents, the Enhanced Public Outreach Program and the Bike-Transit Center Implementation Plan. Throughout this process, stakeholders can be recommended improving bicycle access to and from transit stations with the concept of “Bike-Transit Hubs” as a way to promote Metro’s strategic mobility goals. Bike-Transit hubs generally defined as a focal point where bicyclists interface with two or more transit services and have bicycle-parking amenities.

In August 2004, a project contract was executed for the two-volume planning document: Volume I Strategic Plan, and Volume II Bicycle Transportation Account.

### Volume I Strategic Plan

Volume I, the Strategic Plan will identify potential Bike-Transit Hubs throughout the county and develop access plans for 8-12 Bike-Transit Hubs as part of this initial phase. Additional Bike-Transit Hub access plans will be prepared as funds become available. Volume 1 will also develop a Bike-Transit Hub Access audit tool and facility options, develop policy recommendations for Metro, and identify gaps on the Class I bike path network or “Regional Spine”.

### Volume II Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Document

Volume II, the BTA Document, will be an inventory of all bicycle facilities in the County (paths, lanes, routes, parking and changing facilities). All the cities and the County have been invited to participate throughout the project to provide information and input for this document and the Strategic Plan. The cities and the County will be able to adopt this planning document to establish their eligibility for Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) funds, an annual State grant program. Once Caltrans Headquarters approves Volume II, each city and the County would be able to adopt the plan as their own, qualifying them for BTA funds.

The benefits of the BTSP for the County are:

- Promotes Metro’s strategic mobility goals
- Leverages Metro’s strategic investments
- Sets policy priorities for funding bike-transit improvements through the Call for Projects
- Maximizes funding opportunities by providing BTA eligibility for the cities and the county, and creating the tools to develop grant applications.

### Project Outreach

As part of the BTSP, a Strategic Plan Working Group (WG) was been created in August 2004, and has met bimonthly and will continue to meet for a total of six times. Representatives from all the cities and the County have been invited. The draft project deliverables are presented at the meetings for feedback and discussion. More than 30 people attended each of the first two meetings. These numbers are increasing. The WG has provided ideas for meetings with the staff

from the sub-regional COGs. The Area Teams are acting as liaison with the sub-regions. The first round sub-regional meetings are being conducted in January 2005 and the second will be held in May 2005. Other briefings will occur as necessary over the course of the next year with the Metro Service Sectors, TAC, the LACBC, and the Los Angeles City Bicycle Advisory Committee.

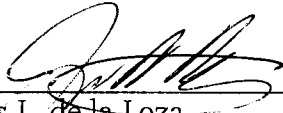
### **NEXT STEPS**

Sub-regional outreach will commence in January 2005 and plan documents will be prepared in accordance with the schedule shown on Attachment A. Staff will return to the Board for plan approval in January 2006.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

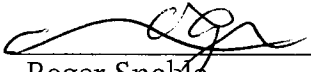
A. Project Schedule

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Chief Planning Officer



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## PROJECT SCHEDULE

<u>Project Milestones</u>	<u>Date</u>
First round of sub-regional outreach meetings	January 2005
Working Group meetings	February, April, June, August 2005
Data collection for the BTA Document/Maps	November 2004 – April 2005
Draft Policy Recommendations	December 2004
Begin Bike-Transit Hub Selection, Audit, Toolbox of improvements	December 2004 – May 2005
Final Policy Recommendations	March 2005
Second round of sub-regional outreach meetings	May 2005
Draft Countywide BTA Document	May 2005
Complete Bike-Transit Hub Access Plans	June 2005
Draft Strategic Plan	July 2005
Final Countywide BTA Document	August 2005
Final Strategic Plan	October 2005
Board Consideration of BTSP	January 2006