



**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 16, 2005**

**SUBJECT: METRO FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL**

**ACTION: EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL TO SUPPORT THE METRO FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute an agreement with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to provide field officer and dispatch support to the Los Angeles County Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) during FY06 in the amount not to exceed \$800,000.

**RATIONALE**

Each year, a portion of the state funding earmarked for FSP is taken off-the-top by Caltrans to reimburse the CHP for its direct FSP costs. The role of the CHP is to provide dispatch support via specially trained dispatchers; provide field enforcement activities (inspections of trucks and operators in the field, fleet monitoring of FSP operators, annual inspections of the contractors' facilities); and develop and provide operator training (new FSP operator training and certification, and refresher training for all current FSP operators). The amount of funding provided to the Los Angeles CHP from the state has not been sufficient to provide the necessary CHP staff support to successfully perform its responsibilities. Additionally, the state allocation to CHP has remained constant for the past four years, while CHP labor rates continue to increase. Metro has therefore used its own funding to augment the state funding to the CHP.

The recommended funding for CHP for FY06 is slightly above the current FY05 level (\$770K). However, because of increasing salary and benefit wages negotiated by CHP's bargaining units the FY06 budget for dedicated staff to support the FSP program will remain the same.

The need for CHP support has increased as the service level of the FSP program will increase during midday and weekend periods in order to provide complete and continuous daily service around most of the LA County freeway network. Additionally, the I-710 Big Rig Tow demonstration project is preparing to go on-line.

Furthermore, because of state reductions in force and prioritization of work efforts, the FSP program has been undergoing a streamlining period to address the reduction in

Caltrans support, prioritization the need to automate more of the labor-intensive operational functions required to maintain and manage the FSP operation.


**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

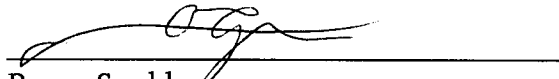
Funding of \$800,000 for the agreement with CHP to support FSP service is included in the FY06 budget under cost center 3352, Project 300070, Freeway Service Patrol. The total budget for CHP support in FY05 was \$770,000.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Metro may decide not to approve the resources for CHP support to the FSP program. This is not recommended as the Board has advocated increases in FSP service in the past, including the I-710 Big Rig Tow Demonstration, without specifically identifying outside agency funding needed to support the authorized expansion of the FSP program.

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