

**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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metro.net**AD HOC CONGESTION PRICING COMMITTEE**
January 16, 2008**SUBJECT: STATUS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONGESTION-REDUCTION
DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVES PROPOSAL****ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE****RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file this update on the status of Los Angeles County Congestion-Reduction Demonstration Initiatives proposal.

ISSUE

In response to the Board Action of November 2007, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), in cooperation with Caltrans and other transportation agencies in Los Angeles County, submitted a regional application for financial assistance to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) by the December 31, 2007 deadline. LACMTA, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Los Angeles County, in cooperation with Caltrans, is also submitting an application to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the authority to develop and operate High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes to guarantee one of the two projects that could be approved per Assembly Bill 1467 for Southern California.

In response to the June 2007 Board Motion on November 27, 2007, staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services to develop the Los Angeles County Congestion Pricing Operating Plan. Responses to this RFP are due on January 11, 2008.

DISCUSSION

In response to a November 13, 2007 Solicitation of Applications for Funding of Congestion-Reduction Demonstration Initiatives published by the USDOT, the Board approved the submittal of an application to the USDOT requesting funding for a congestion-pricing demonstration project to convert High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to HOT lanes along specific segments of Interstate 10, Interstate 110, Interstate 210 and State Route 60. At the same meeting, the Board also approved the submittal of an application to the CTC requesting legislative authority to develop and operate these facilities as HOT lanes in

accordance with Assembly Bill 1467. Staff contracted the professional services of Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff (HNTB) from our Planning Bench to assist us in the preparation of both applications.

Funding Application to USDOT

To complete the USDOT application for funding, we requested input from representatives of the various agencies affected by the proposed congestion-reduction initiative to develop a set of strategies to support our proposal. Projects were expected to integrate innovative transit, technology and pricing strategies to meet the USDOT's requirements. Consequently, we received project-funding requests that included capital investments to expand or enhance transit services along the HOT demonstration corridors. We also received technology projects to complement the congestion-reduction initiative.

We received project listings from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG), Foothill Transit, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT). Additionally, we contacted and received project listings from our South Bay Service Sector area and the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector area. Other LACMTA service enhancement projects were also considered as part of the comprehensive strategy.

As a result of these efforts, we compiled a comprehensive list of projects and reviewed them for funding eligibility, readiness, expected benefits and relevance to the region's overall congestion-reduction demonstration proposal. After careful review of these projects, we developed an integrated list of projects that was finally included as part of the Los Angeles Region Congestion-Reduction Demonstration Initiative Application that was submitted to the USDOT. We anticipate USDOT will release the award notification by late January 2008.

Assembly Bill 1467 Application to the CTC

We officially requested Caltrans' support to develop and submit the Assembly Bill 1467 application. Soon after the USDOT funding application was submitted, we prepared and will soon submit, in cooperation with Caltrans, an application to the CTC for the authority to develop and operate HOT lanes to guarantee one of the two projects that could be approved per Assembly Bill 1467 for Southern California. This authorization is needed to complement the anticipated USDOT approval for funding that would allow us to implement the HOT lanes projects proposed in our congestion-reduction initiative.

Public Outreach

Our Communications Department initiated a series of internal meetings in an effort to develop a communications and marketing plan to respond to questions and provide educational information related to our congestion-reduction initiative. Among the recommendations was to update our web-site to provide a forum of information sharing with the public regarding our congestion-reduction initiative. We also requested the assistance of

Caltrans and the Southern California Associations of Governments (SCAG) in the dissemination of information and to ensure a consistent message throughout the development of this congestion-reduction initiative.

SCAG and Caltrans Funding

On December 10, 2007, we informed SCAG of the November Board Motion requesting their financial assistance for developing the Los Angeles County Congestion Pricing Operating Plan. SCAG staff indicated that SCAG could provide \$500,000 in fiscal year 2009. We continued working with Caltrans and SCAG in the development of their respective funding agreements for our project.

Schedule

The RFP for the Los Angeles County Congestion Pricing Operating Plan was released on November 27, 2007. A pre-bid meeting was organized at our headquarters on December 11, 2007 and was well attended by several consulting firm representatives. Bids were due January 11, 2008. An evaluation team was assembled from representatives of the different transportation agencies in the region. We are still on schedule for the March 2008 contract award.

NEXT STEPS

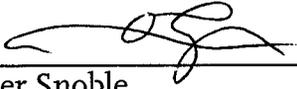
We will update the Board on the USDOT's award notice when it is released. Should the USDOT approve our congestion-reduction funding application, we plan to request Board approval to include those projects in the 2007 Long Range Transportation Plan to meet all of the requirements of the USDOT and the CTC.

By February 2008, we expect to execute funding agreements with SCAG and Caltrans for financial assistance in the development of the Los Angeles County Congestion Pricing Operating Plan. We will also finalize our recommendation for award of the RFP for the Los Angeles County Congestion Pricing Operating Plan. Additionally, we will continue working with our Communications Department, the Transportation Agency Advisory Group and the Community Advisory Group to develop a communications and public outreach plan.

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