

Council Meeting of
February 27, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: City Manager – Authorize a position letter supporting Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority congestion relief projects
Expenditure: N/A**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that City Council authorize a position letter to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and State Legislators in support of the proposed congestion relief projects submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for funding.

Funding
N/A

BACKGROUND

Proposition 1B is the \$19.9 billion transportation infrastructure bond, which includes \$4.5 billion for a newly created Corridor Mobility Improvement Program. This program is focused on congestion relief on the State Highway System and is subject to the North/South split, meaning that 60% of the funds must be spent in Southern California.

The bond measures that were passed in November 2006 gave new hope to communities that the state's infrastructure needs would be met for the next several years. However, on February 16, 2007, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff released their recommendations for projects to be funded from Proposition 1B, which severely shortchanged Los Angeles County. The following outlines the projects and funding requested by Metro, and the recommendations made by the CTC.

PROJECT	Metro Request (In Millions)	CTC Recommendation
I-405 Carpool Lane I-10 to US 101	\$730	0
Interstate 5 from Interstate 605 to Orange County Line	387	157.6
Interstate 10 Extend El Monte Busway to County Line	356	97.3
Interstate 5 Carpool Lane from Route 134 to Route 170	73	73
I-605 Southbound Connector to Eastbound I-10	71	0
Route 138 Widening from Ave. T to Route 18	111	0
TOTAL	\$1,728	\$327.9

ANALYSIS

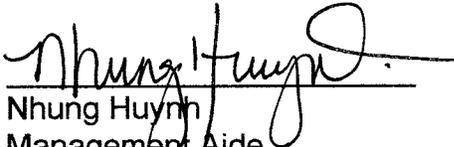
The CTC staff has recommended that only \$328 million of the \$2.8 billion be allocated to Los Angeles County. Metro's basic request of \$1.77 billion from this program is reasonable given that Los Angeles County has 28% of the State's population and over 30% (number of daily vehicle hours of delay) of the State's congestion. The CTC staff recommendation denying Metro's request for \$730 million in funds for the I-405 is based on an erroneous assumption that construction will not start until December 2011. However, this project is being expedited using the Design-Build process which will result in a much earlier construction start date (April 2009) than the one inferred by CTC staff.

The CTC is scheduled to vote on these recommendations on February 28, 2007, and it is urgent that the City of Torrance express support for the funding requests made by the Los Angeles County Metro for these congestion relief projects. Enhancements to assist both in capacity and traffic flow on the I-405 will provide a huge benefit to cities within the South Bay. These enhancements for commuters and the movement of goods and services will provide continued economic viability for our region.

Therefore, the City Manager is requesting Council to authorize staff to forward a letter to the CTC and to our State Legislators urging them to fully fund all ready to go projects that have been submitted by Los Angeles County Metro, and ensure that Southern California will receive their fair share of the 60% of the congestion relief funding.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By 
Nhung Huynh
Management Aide

CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager