

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

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: Transit – Conceptual Approval for Staff to Develop a Regional Federal Grant Application for a Torrance Transit Center

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve staff to develop a conceptual regional Torrance Transit Center model for submission as a federal grant application.

FUNDING

The funding requirements will be developed as part of the conceptual modeling process.

BACKGROUND

Since losing its transit center in 2004 at the Del Amo Fashion Center, Torrance Transit has sought a replacement site. The creation of a Regional Transit Center in the city is its number one priority. Torrance Transit operates fixed route service within the city of Torrance and also provides connections to Los Angeles, Long Beach, Metro Blue Line, Artesia Station and the Los Angeles International Airport, serving over 4.7 million passengers annually. The center would provide regional connectivity for all transit agencies in the South Bay and Los Angeles County. It would also provide access to the regional rapid service and the existing and future projected light rail. It will make public transportation more efficient and thereby encourage more people to make use of transit to ease traffic congestion and increase mobility. Appropriately planned, the transit center could facilitate car and van pooling by providing parking for the pool participants. Improvements in air quality can be expected in proportion to the ease in congestion.

The conceptual approval of a multi-modal regional transit center would be for approximately a five acre site. The site would provide for the construction of bus bays, public restrooms, layover area for bus operators, a Transit store for the dispensing of transit route information and the purchase of fare media, and, initially, a 250 space parking lot for carpool/vanpools. Additionally, the site will also be considered for potential alternate fueling opportunities.

ANALYSIS

The goal for the application for federal funds for the Torrance Transit Center is to submit as a hub of the South Bay Region. Based on discussions with the City's federal representatives, projects with regional significance are a high priority for the upcoming transportation authorization bill. This is due to the benefit of the federal funds being extended to a broader population base. To meet this need for a regional approach, Torrance and Redondo Beach have been in discussions to apply jointly for federal funding for each City's proposed transit center. This proposal is tentatively labeled the *South Bay Region Project*.

Redondo Beach is partially funded for Phase I of their proposed transit center, and has significantly completed the design of Phase I. They will be seeking additional funding to complete Phase I of their transit center. Torrance will be requesting federal funding for Phase I of its regional transit center, which will include land purchase, design and construction.

The combining of the centers into one funding project would regionalize these two important hubs to provide greater connectivity and multi-modal opportunities throughout the greater South Bay and Los Angeles County. The methodology for applying jointly is in the conceptual phase, as is the location and design of the Torrance Transit Center Hub.

SUMMARY

The benefits of a regional transit center include increased air quality, reduction in congestion and fuel consumption, connectivity to light rail and transit providers in the South Bay and Los Angeles County as well as access to jobs. It will create a much needed transportation option for all the citizens in the city and region.

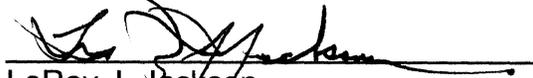
You are encouraged to approve staff to develop a conceptual regional Torrance transit Center model for submission as a federal grant application.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Turner
Transit Director

Concur:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Photographs of Potential Regional Transit Center Site

PHOTOGRAPHS OF POTENTIAL REGIONAL TRANSIT CENTER SITE

