

Council Meeting of
November 18, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: City Manager – Review of the United States Conference of Mayors
(USCM) Main Street Stimulus Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council review the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) Main Street Stimulus Plan and provide direction with respect to distribution of copies to Senators and Representatives, local media, and the local business community advocating for the stimulus recommendations.

BACKGROUND

On November 10, 2008, the Mayor received a letter from the President and CEO and Executive Director from the United States Conference of Mayors requesting support of the Main Street Stimulus. The USCM compiled packages of information to share with Senators and Representatives, local media and the local business community. The information includes information on the ten areas that will impact cities.

The areas include:

1. Community Development Block Grant for Infrastructure
2. Energy Block Grant for Infrastructure
3. Transit Equipment and Infrastructure
4. Highway Infrastructure
5. Airport Technology and Infrastructure
6. Amtrak Infrastructure
7. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
8. School Modernization
9. Public Housing Modernization
10. Public Safety Jobs and Technology

It is to be noted that the City has not participated in some of these programs due to requirements and funding uncertainty.

With the current economic downturn, most American cities are experiencing jobs lost and financial instability. The stimulus plan proposes to make funds available to local government to create new jobs and improve infrastructure.

A few weeks ago, USCM Past Presidents presented this plan to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Ways and Means Committee. The Chair of the Ways and Means Committee strongly advised the local mayors to contact their Senators and Representatives and provide information to support this stimulus plan.

The House and Senate are expected to act on the new stimulus packages the week of November 17. Members of Congress and key staff are already debating the provisions. The USCM recommend support of their Main Street Stimulus Plan and advocate that funds go to local government. In addition, local governments can ensure that the funds are used to stimulate the economy and bring jobs to the local community.

ANALYSIS

According to our legislative analyst, this is the same stimulus package we are hearing about and there is nothing new. Basically, Main Street is used as a reference for the jobs program. Also, the analyst stated that it is highly unlikely that a stimulus package will pass anytime soon. The uniqueness of this stimulus plan is that it allows for local control. Staff awaits direction from Council on the distribution of the information on the USCM Stimulus Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By 
Eleanor B. Jones
Management Associate

CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager