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Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**MEASURE R PROJECT DELIVERY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010**

SUBJECT: HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR

ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Receive and file this update on the High Desert Corridor (HDC) project;
and
- B. Approve removing the condition that we and the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) become members of the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority (HDCJPA) Board of Directors before entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the HDC Project's environmental clearance.

ISSUE

In April 2010, the Board was updated on progress made toward the advancement of the HDC's environmental clearance. At that meeting, the Board approved our entering into a MOU with our partner cities and agencies to advance the HDC project, conditioned upon us and SANBAG becoming members of the HDCJPA. Since that time, based on further discussions with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7 staff, the lead for the environmental clearance, there is no need at the present time to become a member of the HDCJPA Board as Caltrans will certify the document for both the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Board authorization is necessary to eliminate the requirement that we be a member of the HDCJPA to enter into the MOU.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The HDC is included in the Constrained element of the adopted 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with its environmental clearance scheduled for completion in FY 2014 and construction completion scheduled for FY 2020.

The environmental clearance is a Measure R, Accelerated Highway Program Project.

In October 2009, the Board approved the HDC as one of six high potential projects for the Public Private Partnership (PPP) delivery method. The environmental clearance needs to be completed for the private sector to consider participation in the project.

OPTIONS

The Board could choose to direct the CEO to not enter into a MOU with our partner cities and agencies unless we join the HDCJPA Board. This option is not recommended as it is not necessary for us to be a member of the HDCJPA Board to move the project's environmental clearance forward.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The FY 2011 Budget contains \$11 million in Measure R funds in Cost Center 0441, Project Number 465550 to fund Caltrans environmental clearance work and \$750,000 in Cost Center 4710, Project Number 465550 for community outreach to supplement Caltrans' standard efforts. This funding commitment is consistent with the Board adopted Priority Setting in the 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Since this is a multi-year project, it will be the responsibility of the cost center manager and the Executive Director Highway Program to budget expenditures in future years.

Impact to Bus and Rail Operating and Capital Budget

The funding for this project will come from Measure R Highway Capital Funds 20%. These are the funds that have been identified for this project, therefore, no other sources were considered.

DISCUSSION

Project Status

Since our last project update, we have met several times with the City of Victorville and Town of Apple Valley to determine how their environmental clearance work on the portion of the HDC from the US-395 east to the SR-18 could be incorporated into the overall HDC environmental clearance. The San Bernardino cities are agreeable to incorporating this segment into the HDC environmental clearance and are willing to transfer \$9.5 million in a federal

earmark to cover the work. Attachment A is a map illustrating the revised study limits.

Environmental Clearance

Caltrans has initiated work on the project's environmental clearance. Earlier this year they began the project's Spring Surveys. They will soon start the project's scoping, traffic analysis study, and Purpose and Need statement.

Outreach

Caltrans will only perform the level of public outreach that is legally required of them. Therefore, as with other environmental efforts in which we are partnering with Caltrans, we plan to secure the services of a Public Outreach consultant with experience in both Valleys to augment Caltrans' efforts. The consultant will coordinate work with elected officials, neighborhood councils, community and business groups and other interested parties.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue to work with Caltrans and our project partners to advance the project's environmental clearance including executing the MOU. We will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Public Outreach Contactor to have them on board in time for the project's scoping meetings.

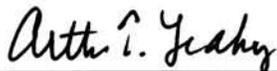
ATTACHMENT

A. Revised Study Limits

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HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR REVISED STUDY LIMITS

