

**Metro**Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation AuthorityOne Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952213.922.2000
metro.net**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
JULY 20, 2011****SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FUNDING FOR LAPSED CITY OF MONROVIA
OLD TOWN PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT****ACTION: APPROVE PROGRAMMING OF \$1.8 MILLION IN REPLACEMENT
FUNDING FOR NEW HUNTINGTON DRIVE PHASE II
SUBSTITUTE PROJECT****RECOMMENDATION**

- A. De-obligate \$1.8 million in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds from the Interstate 10 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes from Citrus to Route 57/210 project in fiscal year (FY) 2012 and restore the \$1.8 million with available Proposition C 25% funds instead;
- B. Reduce future Countywide Call for Projects funding in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by \$1.8 million to restore Proposition C 25% funds to the Interstate 10 HOV Lane project;
- C. Provide replacement funding to the City of Monrovia ("the City") for their lapsed Old Town Pedestrian Improvement project by re-programming \$1.8 million in RSTP funds in FY 2012 to the City's new Huntington Drive Phase II project between Magnolia and Shamrock; and
- D. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend the FY 12 Budget or subsequent budgets, and negotiate and execute agreements and other documents, as necessary to reflect the approved programming.

ISSUE

On April 26, 2011, the City of Monrovia requested \$1.8 million in funds for their Huntington Drive Phase II project between Magnolia and Shamrock streets. The City claims to have completed the original Countywide Call Projects-funded Old Town Pedestrian Improvement Project, but admits that it failed to secure the necessary agreements with Caltrans to qualify for later reimbursement.

DISCUSSION

Due to improper paperwork procedures, the City of Monrovia failed to qualify for reimbursement through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) original 2001 Countywide Call for Projects Transportation Enhancements Activities (TE) grant for their Old Town Pedestrian Improvement Project. The City of Monrovia now has requested that LACMTA provide \$1.8 million in replacement funding to a substitute project to compensate them for the TE funding that has since lapsed and has been re-programmed. The City of Monrovia claims they actually completed the Old Town Pedestrian Improvement Project that was competitively selected in the 2001 Countywide Call for Projects process. It would be poor practice for LACMTA to now reimburse the City directly for a completed Old Town Pedestrian Improvement project. However, we do believe that funding a substitute project may be appropriate under the circumstances.

As any new substitute project could not be selected competitively, the recommended programming of \$1.8 million in federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds to address the City request is being brought before the Board of Directors for approval. The proposed Huntington Drive Phase II from Magnolia to Shamrock streets substitute project is described as follows in the City's request:

"The scope of construction will remove/ replace damaged concrete panels, replace curbing in the median island, upgrade handicap access at selected corners, upgrade pedestrian counters on traffic signals, re-stripe and install pavement markers, replace street signs with new regulatory signs, crack seal and joint repairs and install bus turnouts. The cost for these improvements is approximately \$1.8 million dollars."

Caltrans again will have to determine the eligibility of the proposed scope of work for reimbursement from the RSTP funds recommended for programming. The project scope of work should be eligible for reimbursement, if all procedures are followed for these federal funds.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding of \$1.8 million for this project need not be amended into the FY 12 Budget because the proposed fund source flows through Caltrans, not LACMTA. As the grant funds originally committed to the City of Monrovia have lapsed and LACMTA already has re-programmed the funds to other Countywide Call uses, the recommended programming for this action eventually will come indirectly from a future Countywide Call reservation in the LRTP. To address the City request, the recommended programming will come directly from a \$1.8 million reduction to a \$45.0 million Caltrans RSTP grant for the Interstate 10 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes from Citrus to Route 57/210 project. The Interstate 10 HOV project then will be made whole

by backfilling with \$1.8 million in Proposition C 25% funding from the LRTP for a future Countywide Call.

As the Interstate 10 HOV project is a multi-year contract/project, the cost center manager and the Executive Director of Highway Programs will be accountable for budgeting the Proposition C 25% costs in future years. The federal RSTP funds flow through Caltrans to the City of Monrovia and will not appear in the annual LACMTA budget.

Impact to Budget

The federal RSTP funding in the recommended programming action has been reserved through the LRTP for eligible transit or highway uses. Therefore, the RSTP funds are not available for transit operating purposes.

The Proposition C 25% funds in the recommended programming action also are not eligible for transit operating purposes. They are primarily used to support countywide transit-related improvements to freeways and state highways. They also are eligible for rail capital purposes if used on existing rail rights-of-way or on a state highway right-of-way.

Furthermore, the following budget categories are not impacted by this recommended action:

1. Bus and rail operating and capital budget;
2. Proposition A and Proposition C and Transportation Development Act administration budget; and
3. Measure R administration budget.

This action will impact future Countywide Call for Projects funding.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board of Directors may choose not to approve the recommended programming, but instead instruct us to consider another project for the City of Monrovia as part of a future Board-approved Countywide Call for Projects action. This option is not recommended as we believe that the City has experienced mitigating circumstances with the paperwork needed for the Old Town Pedestrian Improvement Project, which caused original Countywide Call funding to lapse. The City has identified the Huntington Drive Phase II from Magnolia to Shamrock streets as a ready-to-go project that can be substituted.

NEXT STEPS

With Board approval of the recommended programming, we will amend the Los Angeles County Transportation Improvement Program, and process all agreements and

other documents, as necessary. We will caution the City of Monrovia not to proceed with their substitute project until all necessary agreements, required local match for the recommended federal RSTP funding and subsequent Caltrans approvals are in place and verified.

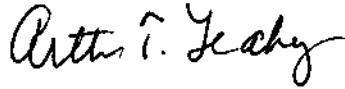
ATTACHMENTS

A. City of Monrovia Letter of April 26, 2011

Prepared by: David Yale, Deputy Executive Officer of Regional Programming
Regional Capital Development



Martha Welborne, FAIA
Executive Director, Countywide Planning



Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

City of MONROVIA
Department of Public Works

1887



April 27, 2011

Shahrzad Amiri
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop 89-22-8
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

SUBJECT: Huntington Drive Phase II Project


Dear Shahrzad Amiri:

The City of Monrovia is currently undertaking the construction improvements to Huntington Drive using ARRA Funding. The street is considered a "Primary Arterial Street" conveying vehicles across the northern part of San Gabriel Valley from El Sereno to Irwindale/Azusa. Many commuters use Huntington Drive to travel across the San Gabriel Valley area to avoid any type of gridlock that occurs during commuter traffic. The first phase of Huntington Drive improvements involved two locations; 1) Magnolia Avenue to 5th Street which is the west city limits; 2) Shamrock to Mountain Ave/or east city limits. The cost to remove/replace concrete and cold mill/resurface the asphalt on Huntington is \$866,000.00. These two locations were selected as the first priority of Huntington Blvd due to the damages of the road.

We would like to submit the remaining segment on Huntington Drive between Magnolia and Shamrock for Grant Program Funding as the Huntington Drive Phase II Project. The entire portion of Huntington Drive is all concrete and has experienced similar damages as the first phase (ARRA). The scope of construction will remove/ replace damaged concrete panels, replace curbing in the median island, upgrade handicap access at selected corners, upgrade pedestrian counters on traffic signals, restripe and install pavement markers, replace street signs with new regulatory signs, crack seal and joint repairs and install bus turnouts. The cost for these improvements is approximately \$1.8 million dollars.

Should there be any further questions please contact me at (626)932-5574 or electronically at rbow@ci.monrovia.ca.us

Respectfully,


Ronald Bow
City of Monrovia
Director of Public Works

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