

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

March 7, 2012

Item Number 3b

California High-Speed Rail Peninsula Corridor Investment Strategy Update

Subject: Update on the Californian High Speed Rail Business Plan and a proposed Memorandum of Understanding to address early investments on the San Francisco/Silicon Valley Peninsula.

Background: California voters approved Proposition 1A, in November 2008, which provides almost \$10 billion for High-Speed Rail improvements. The California High Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) 2012 draft business plan has proposed a major shift toward a blended system approach. This approach targets cost-effective near-term solutions in areas that share existing commuter rail facilities to reduce the environmental impacts of the planned full system and to save substantial costs.

Memorandum of Understanding

The CHSRA is keen to take advantage of early investments that will accelerate benefits of a blended system approach. Specific project categories include the implementation of positive train control, system electrification, grade crossing, safety systems, station improvements and inter-service connections in northern and southern California in preparation for high-speed trains.

In anticipation of this strategic approach, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed by the Southern California Transportation Authorities that identifies approximately \$1.3 billion of projects to be funded with a yet to be determined mix of state and local agency Proposition 1A funds and the required local match. In the case of the southland, participants and the states of their action to-date include; the Southern California Association Governments (SCAG - approved), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA - approved), Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA- no action), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC - approved), San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG – no action), San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG - approved).

This draft MOU with the Southern California Transportation Authorities will be discussed at the March 2nd CHSRA meeting, but no action is expected.

Issues: Based on the early development of this Southern California agreement, MTC and the Peninsula Corridor agencies have been actively working to form a similar agreement that would commit both local agency and state controlled Proposition 1A funds and to identify the needed local match required to deliver the project. To date we have focused efforts on a program of fundable projects centered on Positive Train Control and Electrification. The MOU may also consider other projects that are not yet fully funded focused on preparing the stations sites in San Francisco and San Jose for full high speed rail service. Staff will provide an update on the status of the MOU discussions at your meeting.

Recommendation: Staff proposes to bring an investment strategy and MOU with CHSRA to the March 28 Commission meeting for approval.