

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

January 10, 2007

Item Number 5

CTC Report

Subject: California Transportation Commission Report – December 2006 Meeting

Background: The California Transportation Commission met on December 13 and 14, 2006 in San Francisco and discussed a number of topics of regional significance.

The programs affected by the recently passed transportation bond received the most discussion. The policies and procedures for the augmentation of the State Transportation Improvement Program was approved, setting April 2, 2007 as the date regions must submit their project nominations to the CTC. The fund estimate was also adopted, and has about \$170 million less than previously reported. This is due to later realization of tribal gaming funds, reducing the statewide Public Transportation Account target. The draft guidelines for the State/Local Partnership Program was also discussed, but only as an information item. Many commissioners and regions expressed concern over the draft guidelines, as they only recognize Local Sales tax measures and uniform developer fees as eligible local fund sources, thus excluding tolls and other voter-approved transportation fees. The guidelines also only allow projects with a 30-year useful life thereby excluding bus acquisition as an eligible project.

Caltrans presented its trends for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program, which showed the annual need more than double what is currently funded. Caltrans is looking at possible bonding against future gas tax proceeds in order to meet the SHOPP funding need in the short term.

Finally, the Commission approved the three award extension requests from the region, including the San Mateo US-101 3rd to Millbrae Auxiliary Lane project, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's SR-152/SR-156 Interchange Improvement project, and Santa Clara's San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail project. All projects received a six-month award deadline extension. However, the Commission expressed concern on the 50 percent cost increase for the San Mateo US-101 3rd to Millbrae Auxiliary Lanes Project; the supplemental funds vote will be considered at the CTC's January meeting. Caltrans, CCAG and MTC staff have met with Commissioner Ghilmetti to discuss the need for the supplemental funds vote.

Issues: MTC is on schedule to submit Regional Transportation Improvement Program Augmentation projects to the CTC by the April 2, 2007 deadline. Congestion Management Agencies must submit their final RTIP Augmentation project nominations to MTC by February 28, 2007.

MTC supports including bridge toll funds as an eligible local funding source for the State/Local Partnership Program in order to maximize the funding to the region through the program. However, there is still much discussion over these policies, and it is unlikely that the final policies will be adopted in January. There may be bills introduced in the Legislature about this program as well.

The CTC is continuing to closely track extension requests, and all agencies are reminded to be present at the meeting where their request is being considered. Generally, the Commission is reluctant to grant any extension longer than six months.

Recommendation: Receive information regarding the December 2006 meeting of the California Transportation Commission.

Attachment: None.