

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

PROJECT BUSINESS MATTERS
Time Extension – Contract Award
Action Item

Prepared by:
David Cabrera
Division Chief
Mass Transportation
(916) 654-8811

CTC Meeting: March 28-29, 2001

Agenda Item: 2.8b.(4)

Original Signed By _____
W. J. EVANS, Deputy Director
Finance
March 1, 2001

WAIVER APPROVAL – CTC RESOLUTION G-00-20
CTC STIP GUIDELINES
SECTION 65 – TIMELY USE OF FUNDS

STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
WAIVER-01-12

ISSUE

Resolution G-00-20, *STIP Guidelines*, adopted by the California Transportation Commission (Commission) on July 19, 2000, stipulates that funds allocated for construction must be encumbered by the award of a contract within twelve (12) months of the date of the allocation of funds.

The Ventura County Transportation Commission is requesting a nine (9) month time extension for period of contract award from March 30, 2001 to December 31, 2001, in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for the Montalvo Metrolink Station and Track/Signal Improvement project. The delay was a result of the public review process that took nine (9) months longer than anticipated.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Commission approve the time extension requested by the Ventura County Transportation Commission from March 30, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

SUMMARY

On August 19, 1998, the Commission approved Resolution MFP-99-20 allocating \$4,540,000 in FY 99-00 STIP funds to the Ventura County Transportation Commission for the construction of the Montalvo Metrolink Station and related track and signal improvements project. The Ventura County Transportation Commission is requesting a nine (9) month time extension for the period of contract award due to the delay in the public review process that took longer than anticipated as a result of three major project redesigns due to public input.



Item 2.86.(4)

**VENTURA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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REC'D BY CTC

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March 5, 2001

Mr. Robert Remen, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request to Extend Period of Contract Award

Dear Mr. Remen:

The VCTC has requested an extension of the contract award period for our Montalvo Station construction project (PPNO 2385). We have been asked to provide additional information regarding the delays experienced over the past eighteen months on this project. The VCTC has been involved with the construction of three rail stations in Ventura County over the past decade. The local review processes for each of these was complete within three months. Therefore, the extensive local review process for the Montalvo Station was entirely unexpected and to say the least very frustrating. The following is a brief summary of the lengthy local review process:

The Ventura City Council approved the train station site in August of 1999 and at that time directed VCTC and City staff to hold a community meeting to inform and involve the neighborhood in the project. VCTC quickly held two community meetings during which several design issues were raised and the station design concept was revised significantly. Following these meetings, in December 1999, the City Council required another public hearing before them to make a "final" decision regarding the station site and design concept. At that meeting, the City Council further directed VCTC to bring the item to its Planning Commission and Design Review Committee (DRC). VCTC staff went to work immediately to prepare the materials needed for the Planning Commission and DRC. Unfortunately, these two review bodies took months to complete their review of the project. The DRC required three separate meetings to review the station and at each of them added new design elements and site features. The Planning Commission again required public hearings and invited testimony from the community. Throughout this process, VCTC staff continually emphasized the need to proceed quickly; however, the City insisted that its "process" be followed. It was not until October 17, 2000 that the final site design was approved by the City's Planning Commission.

I want to emphasize that VCTC staff moved as quickly as possible throughout this process to turn-around site plans and other design information so that little time passed between each of the City's required meetings. I also want to inform you that since the final approval was granted, VCTC has been moving quickly on the final design, which is now 30% complete. We anticipate, barring any further delays, having the final PS&E complete by May/June of this year.



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It should also be noted that the majority of the funds for this project were transferred to FTA, and incorporated into a grant awarded by FTA on November 30, 2000. Under the Timely Use of Funds Policy, the award deadline has been met for the funds transferred to FTA, so the extension is only needed for the \$505,310 State Match.

Finally, I would close by adding that while this process was time consuming, we now have a project that is fully embraced by the immediate neighborhood as well as the community at large. I hope this information is helpful. If you or your staff requires any additional information or details regarding this extension request or the unexpectedly lengthy City review process, please do not hesitate to call me at 805-642-1591.

Sincerely,

Ginger Gherardi
Executive Director

cc: Jim McCarthy, Caltrans District 7 (Attention Linda Wright)