

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: July 13-14, 2005

Reference No.: 2.1c.(5)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Ross A. Chittenden
Division Chief
Transportation Programming

Ref: **TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF (TCR) PROGRAM PROJECT APPLICATION
AMENDMENT APPROVAL
RESOLUTION TAA-05-11, AMENDING RESOLUTIONS TA-01-06, TAA-04-11**

The California Department of Transportation (Department) and Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRRA) request approval of the following three Traffic Congestion Relief (TCR) Program amendments, including three amendments to program a net total of \$66,110,000 in new TCR funding.

Sub-Project #35.1 – Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through-tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County – Run-through-tracks from Union Station to mainline track along Los Angeles River

- Transfer \$19,849,000 in TCR funding to TCR Sub-Project #35.2 – Triple Track BNSF line.
- Transfer \$2,389,000 in TCR funding to TCR Sub-Project #35.3 – Fifth lead track at Los Angeles Union Station.
- Update project schedule and funding plan previously approved under Resolution TA-01-06.

Sub-Project #35.2 – Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through-tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County – Triple Track BNSF line.

- Receive transfer of \$19,849,000 in TCR funding to Construction (CON) from TCR Sub-Project #35.1 – Run-through-tracks from Union Station to mainline track along Los Angeles River.
- Program an additional \$66,936,000, for a net total of \$86,785,000 in TCR funding for CON.

Sub-Project #35.3 – Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through-tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County – Fifth lead track at Los Angeles Union Station.

- Receive transfer of \$2,389,000 in TCR funding to CON from TCR Sub-Project #35.1– Run-through-tracks from Union Station to mainline track along Los Angeles River.
- Update project schedule and funding plan previously approved under Resolution TAA-04-11.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends approval.

BACKGROUND

Sub-Project #35.1:

This project is to construct run-through tracks at Los Angeles Union Station to improve passenger train operations by eliminating trains reversing directions when exiting the “cul de sac” on which the station is located. Currently, Environmental (including environmental clearance, technical studies, obtaining permits, and preparing 35% plans) has been completed. However, this project has experienced substantial cost increases due to inflation and increases in the price of construction materials. The previous estimated project cost was \$167,000,000, while the current estimate is now \$330,000,000. Originally, Amtrak was to contribute a substantial amount of the total cost, but due to uncertainties in Amtrak’s funding and the increased project costs, it is unknown at this time if the necessary additional funds are available. Sub-Project #35.2 (Triple Track BNSF line) and Sub-Project #35.3 (Fifth Lead Track) are ready to begin construction. Moreover, TCR Sub-Project #35.3 takes precedence, as it creates construction capacity (a detour for the trains during construction) that must be completed prior to construction of Sub-Project #35.1. Therefore, the Department requests the remaining available TCR funds be transferred to TCR Sub-Project #35.2 and Sub-Project #35.3 to enable both projects to begin construction immediately.

Sub-Project #35.2:

This project is to construct approximately 5 miles of third main track (triple track) within the intercity rail line corridor from the City of Commerce to Fullerton, and construct a grade separation at Valley View to reduce delays and increase safety. Both Environmental and PS&E were completed using other funds. The environmental document covers this project and associated projects for the entire corridor. The Department requests that \$86,785,000 in TCR funds be programmed to CON, as the project is ready to go. The construction contracts will be awarded by November 2005. This project will result in usable track that will be connected to additional segments in the corridor as they are built.

Sub-Project #35.3:

This project adds a new (fifth) lead track between the Los Angeles Union Station platform tracks and the routes that extend east, north, and south at the Station. The fifth lead track will provide additional capacity and permit construction staging (room for trains to go around construction equipment, etc.) for Sub-Project #35.1. Sub-project #35.3 is now ready to proceed to construction and the contract can be awarded by October 2005. It was originally programmed \$5,064,000 in TCR funding, however, additional programming of \$2,389,000 is required due to cost increases that have occurred because of inflation and price increases in construction materials.

RESOLUTION

Resolved, with all conditions stipulated still in effect, the California Transportation Commission hereby revises TCR Sub-projects #35.1, #35.2, #35.3 as follows:

Revises:

County	District	BREF	TCRP										
Los Angeles	7	35.1	\$ 94,936										
Completion (FY)	Phase 1	03/04 04/05						Phase 3	07/08				
	Phase 2	05/06 07/08						Phase 4	10/11				
Lead Agency:	California Department of Transportation												
Implementing:	Same												
Description:	Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County (Run-through-tracks)												
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Beyond	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
TCRP - Committed													
Existing	28,000	28,000								12,000	16,000		
Change	(22,238)	(22,238)								(6,238)	(16,000)		
Proposed	5,762	5,762								5,762	0		
TCRP - Proposed													
Existing	72,000	10,000	62,000					10,000	62,000				
Change	(72,000)	(10,000)	(62,000)					(10,000)	(62,000)				
Proposed	0	0	0					0	0				
Future													
Existing	67,000	5,000		62,000				5,000	62,000				
Change	257,238	(5,000)		(26,000)		288,238		15,000	226,238		16,000		
Proposed	324,238	0		36,000		288,238		20,000	288,238		16,000		
Total													
Existing	167,000	43,000	62,000	62,000		0		15,000	124,000	12,000	16,000		
Change	163,000	(37,238)	(62,000)	(26,000)		288,238		5,000	164,238	(6,238)	0		
Proposed	330,000	5,762	0	36,000		288,238		20,000	288,238	5,762	16,000		

and Revises:

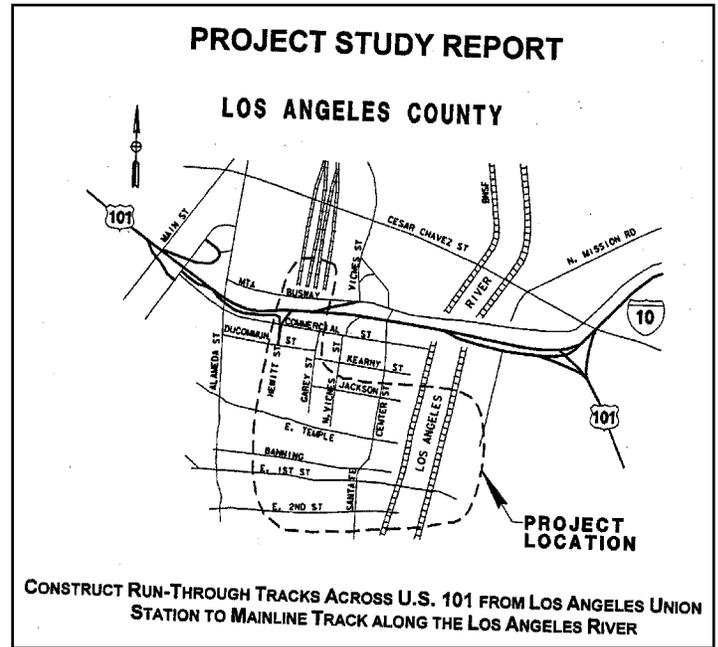
County	District	BREF	TCRP										
Los Angeles	7	35.2	\$ 86,785										
Completion (FY)		Phase 1	03/04					Phase 3	05/06				
		Phase 2	04/05					Phase 4	08/09				
Lead Agency:	California Department of Transportation												
Implementing:	Same												
Description:	Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County (Triple Track BNSF line)												
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Beyond	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
TCRP - Committed													
Existing	0												
Change	86,785		86,785						86,785				
Proposed	86,785		86,785						86,785				
Federal I-5 JPA Demo - Committed													
Existing	2,000	2,000						2,000					
Change	0												
Proposed	2,000	2,000						2,000					
Total													
Existing	2,000	2,000	0					2,000	0				
Change	86,785	0	86,785					0	86,785				
Proposed	88,785	2,000	86,785					2,000	86,785				

and Revises:

County	District	BREF	TCRP										
Los Angeles	7	35.3	\$ 7,453										
Completion (FY)		Phase 1						Phase 3					
		Phase 2	02/03					Phase 4	05/06				
Lead Agency:	California Department of Transportation												
Implementing:	Southern California Regional Rail Authority												
Description:	Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County (Fifth Lead)												
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	05/06	06/07	08/08	08/09	Beyond	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
TCRP - Committed													
Existing	5,064	284	4,780						4,780		284		
Change	2,389		2,389						2,389				
Proposed	7,453	284	7,169						7,169		284		
Total													
Existing	5,064	284	4,780						4,780		284		
Change	2,389	0	2,389						2,389		0		
Proposed	7,453	284	7,169						7,169		284		

TCRP #35.3

Description:
Pacific Surfliner; triple track intercity rail line within Los Angeles County and add run-through tracks through Los Angeles Union Station in Los Angeles County (**fifth lead track**).



PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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Grace F. Napolitano

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
38th District of California

June 30, 2005

California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Tavaglione and Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong support for an application under the Traffic Congestion Relief Program being submitted by Caltrans for the construction of a third main line and five corresponding grade separations along a 15 mile segment of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF). The proposed project will improve the efficiency of rail traffic through our community while addressing blocking delays and the potential for train/vehicle accidents at existing at-grade crossings.

With only two tracks along much of the existing rail corridor, conflicts exist between freight and passenger trains. It is estimated that approximately 100 trains per day share this congested two-track system, causing delays for both, freight and passenger train systems.

By installing a third track there will be sufficient capacity to permit passenger trains to maintain their speed without slowing or stopping for short periods. This will allow passenger trains to meet schedules and thus attract additional passengers which, in turn, will reduce traffic loads on regional and local surface street circulation systems. Freight trains will be able to operate with fewer constraints and delays, thus maintaining their schedules, which have become more challenging as rail operations have expanded from the West Coast.

Additionally, the construction of grade separations will eliminate the potential for train/vehicle accidents and fatalities. Over the years, there have been 44 train/vehicle accidents including 10 fatalities at the proposed grade separation sites. The proposed grade separations will also increase commercial and commuter vehicle efficiency by eliminating blocking delays at existing at-grade crossings. The community will benefit from reduced vehicle emissions resulting from increased vehicle efficiency and the elimination of noise pollution created by the trains' air horn warning signals required at the current crossings.

I particularly support the construction of the Valley View Grade Separation project, which is construction-ready and has been long overdue. Valley View was identified as the highest priority grade separation due to its critical location on the border of the Cities of Santa Fe Springs and La Mirada. This specific project is greatly needed due to the enhanced safety and efficiency it will provide for the movement of goods and people between the cities.

RESOURCES

WATER AND POWER—RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WESTERN HEMISPHERE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND
HUMAN RIGHTS

SMALL BUSINESS

WORKFORCE, EMPOWERMENT AND
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

VICE CHAIR

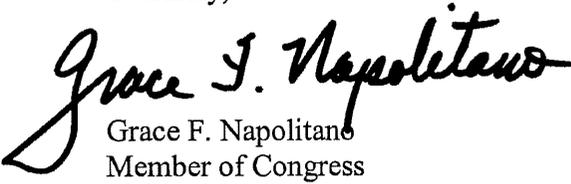
CONGRESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR

Again, I would like to express my strong support for this project and urge you to approve this request for the implementation of these long-overdue improvements.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Sheehy in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5256.

Sincerely,


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress