

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: September 6-7, 2006

Reference No.: 2.1a.(7)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

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Subject: **STIP AMENDMENT 06S-009**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 06S-009 for the Department and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA). This amendment was noticed at the July 2006 Commission meeting.

ISSUE:

The Department and SCRRA propose to program a total of \$5,000,000 in Public Transportation Account (PTA) funds from Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) shares for Design (PS&E) and Construction of the new SCRRA Sealed Corridor project (PPNO 2070) in FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08.

BACKGROUND:

The SCRRA Sealed Corridor project covers the entire Metrolink system, which serves the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and northern San Diego. This project will enhance the safety of highway/rail grade crossings on the predominantly urban rail lines owned by the SCRRA.

Consistent with STIP Guidelines, a Project Study Report (PSR) report was developed and approved on May 12, 2006. The PSR estimates the total cost for the Sealed Corridor project to be \$33.25 million dollars. This STIP Amendment project proposal implements the early deliverable elements of the overall project. The SCRRA is examining options that fund the later elements of the project. **The \$5 million in PTA funds in this amendment represents the Department's total contribution from the 2006 STIP towards the SCRRA Sealed Corridor project.**

The purpose of this project is to attain the highest practicable level of safety up to and including grade separations at all points of potential conflict between motorists, pedestrians, and trains. Benefits of this project include fewer collisions with the associated property damage, potential injuries and loss of life, as well as fewer delays to both train and street traffic resulting from collisions and near misses.

The funds for the sealed corridor project would be applied as follows:

- \$1,400,000 for concept planning and design
- \$300,000 for Buena Vista grade crossing improvements
- \$300,000 for Van Nuys Boulevard grade crossing improvements
- \$3,000,000 for fiber optic installation

The scope of work for these projects is described below.

Concept Planning and Design: \$1.4 million

Once the design concept for each highway/rail grade crossing is agreed upon, the final construction documents at selected crossings for roadway, utilities, and traffic signals will be prepared by the engineering consultant to be selected in June 2006 by SCRRA for the sealed corridor program.

The existing SCRRA signal design contractor will perform the design of the railroad signals and related circuits. The design of the railroad signal circuits must be done in a manner that assures continued safe operation of both the highway/rail grade crossing warning signals and the wayside train signal system. Often the alteration of signals at one highway/rail grade crossing will affect nearby highway/rail grade crossing and wayside signal elements and associated control circuits, so the revision of the signal system has to be done for the corridor as a whole.

Buena Vista/Vanowen Crossing Safety Enhancements: \$300,000

The city of Burbank has \$465,000 in Hazard Elimination funding and \$75,000 in developer fees towards the Buena Vista/Vanowen crossing. It is estimated that an additional \$300,000 in PTA funds will allow the city to complete the project.

The scope of this project is to construct additional gates and medians, relocate traffic signals, install surveillance camera, and install turn prohibition signs that are activated only when the warning system for the crossing is activated.

Van Nuys Boulevard Crossing Safety Enhancements: \$300,000

The Van Nuys Boulevard crossing project was set up as a cooperative effort between the city of Los Angeles and the SCRRA to enhance the safety of the crossing and the intersection of Van Nuys Boulevard and San Fernando Road. The current funding plan includes federal (\$309,633), the city of Los Angeles (\$332,000), and SCRRA (\$283,621). Using the existing funds, SCRRA has completed design on this project, and some elements of construction are already underway. The additional PTA funds would allow the construction to be completed.

The improvements at the crossings include widening of Van Nuys Boulevard to accommodate new raised median islands on both sides of the tracks, street improvements, drainage improvements, traffic signal improvements, bus stop improvements, railroad signal improvements (including the installation of additional gates in the medians), power pole relocations, and sidewalk and curb radius improvements for safer truck turning movements.

Fiber Optic Deployment: \$3 million

SCRRA’s Signal Division, with the help of the existing signal construction contractor, will install fiber optic cables in the existing conduit system located along the right of way of the Antelope Valley Line between Burbank Junction and Los Angeles. They will also connect the existing grade crossing event analyzers located at each highway/rail grade crossings to monitor the crossings for maintenance and operation problems. The event analyzers provide for real-time monitoring of the operating cycles and the maintenance parameters of crossing signals. They enable more rapid responses to operating problems and increase service reliability by diagnosing and reporting anomalies before they become failures. The fiber optic system could also be used to transmit data from any surveillance camera, as well as other systems and information communications needs.

RESOLUTION:

Resolved, that the California Transportation Commission revise the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program at the end of the 30-day notice period, as follows:

Revises:

County	District	PPNO	EA	Element	Const. Year	PM Back	PM Ahead	Route/Corridor					
Los Angeles	75	2070	--	Rail	2007-08	--	--	--					
Implementing Agency: (by component)		PA&ED	SCRRA			PS&E	SCRRA						
		R/W	SCRRA			CON	SCRRA						
RTPA/CTC:		Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)											
Project Title:		SCRRA Sealed Corridor Project											
Location		This project covers the entire Metrolink system, which serves LA, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and north San Diego Counties.											
Description:		Enhance the safety of highway/rail grade crossings on the predominantly urban rail lines.											
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)													
FUND	TOTAL	Project Totals by Fiscal Year						Project Totals by Component					
		Prior	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	R/W	CON	PA&ED	PS&E	R/W Supp	CON Supp
IIP - Public Transportation Account (PTA)													
Existing	0		0	0				0		0			
Change	5,000		1,400	3,600				3,600		1,400			
Proposed	5,000		1,400	3,600				3,600		1,400			
Federal Railroad Administration													
Existing	0	0								0			
Change	250	250								250			
Proposed	250	250								250			
Local and Other													
Existing	0		0					0		0			
Change	8,792		8,792					7,000		1,792			
Proposed	8,792		8,792					7,000		1,792			
Total													
Existing	0	0	0	0				0		0			
Change	14,042	250	10,192	3,600				10,600		3,442			
Proposed	14,042	250	10,192	3,600				10,600		3,442			

Note: The amounts for FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08 IIP have been updated from the Notice presented in July 2006. No change to the overall amendment amount, however.