

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 12-13, 2007

Reference No.: 2.8a.
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry Abbott
Division Chief
Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION PER STIP
GUIDELINES
WAIVER-07-30**

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Arcata has requested that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) consider extending the period of project allocation for the Design (PS&E) and Right of Way phases for 12 months, to June 30, 2009, for their Foster Avenue to Sunset Avenue Extension project (PPNO 01-2071). The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the waiver, if approved, be consistent with the allocation plan principles to be adopted by the Commission at its December 2007 meeting.

ISSUE:

The City of Arcata (City) has \$110,000 programmed for PS&E and \$240,000 programmed for Right of Way, both in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08. The City is requesting a 12-month extension to the period of project allocation for PS&E and Right of Way in order to complete required environmental studies and to revise the project schedule to optimize neighborhood/public participation in the environmental review process during the Environmental (PA&ED) phase.

The City has experienced an unforeseen delay in completing PA&ED due to the increased interest of the public and the need for public participation. Public perception of this project is very important. City residents, commuters, Humboldt State University (HSU) administrators, and the Arcata Volunteer Fire Department have demonstrated interest in the project and have requested meetings with the City. The current development proposals increase the complexity of the Foster Avenue Extension project, and past development proposals indicate that this project is potentially controversial.

For the Foster Avenue to Sunset Avenue Extension project, the City will conduct a multi-phased public participation program. The City held the first neighborhood meeting on May 5, 2007. The opinions of the participants varied; some participants wanted no road at all and other participants proposed the alignment that the City has since adopted as its preferred conceptual design. Since the meeting, more neighbors have become interested in the Foster Avenue Extension project due to a private project to annex and develop land west of Foster Avenue.

Currently, the City is conducting the preliminary environmental technical studies and anticipates holding additional public meetings in response to the increased interest from the public. A large portion of the HSU population leaves the area during the summer and winter breaks; therefore, the City would like to extend the PA&ED period in order to continue when the HSU population returns in the fall and into the following spring. This will allow the City to conduct public review meetings and/or public hearings when most of the resident population is in town.

The City cannot request allocations for PS&E or Right of Way until PA&ED phase is complete and is therefore requesting a 12-month extension to the period of project allocation for PS&E and Right of Way to allow the City more time for public participation before completing the PA&ED.

The City is also requesting a concurrent 12-month extension to the period of project expenditure for PA&ED under agenda item 2.8d.

BACKGROUND:

Current State Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines adopted by the Commission stipulate that the Commission may approve a waiver to the timely use of funds deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.