

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: February 24-25, 2010

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Reference No. 4.17
ACTION

Ref.: Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA) - Status Report

Background

Proposition 1B includes \$250 million for the Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA) Program to fund the completion of high-priority grade separation and railroad crossing safety improvements. The HRCSA funds are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to Caltrans, as allocated by the Commission.

The HRCSA Program is subject to the provisions of Government Code and includes, under Section 8879.23(j)(1), described in the Commission's guidelines as Part 1, \$150 million for projects on the priority list established by the PUC pursuant to the process established in Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 2450) of Division 3 of the Streets and Highways Code; and under Section 8879.23(j)(2), described in the Commission's guidelines as Part 2, \$100 million for high-priority railroad crossing improvements that are not part of the PUC priority list process.

On August 28, 2008, the Commission adopted the HRCSA Program, programming \$143,933,000 for twelve Part 1 projects and \$100,884,000 for eleven Part 2 projects, a total of \$244,817,000. Including \$5 million for bond administrative fees, the total adopted program was \$249,817,000.

Program Issues

As a result of amendments approved by the Commission since the adoption of the HRCSA program, the HRCSA Program has been reduced to \$225,592,000, \$5 million for bond administrative fees and \$220,592,000 for 22 projects. There is a total of \$24,408,000 in HRCSA funds available for possible programming, \$11,948,000 is available for Part 1 and \$12,460,000 for Part 2 programming.

Several agencies have expressed interest in the available funds to augment existing HRCSA amounts, prior to the release of the July 1, 2010 PUC list, and before a new call for projects is conducted.

In the HRCSA Guidelines, the Commission stated its intent to use the PUC priority list to be adopted by July 1, 2010 to update the adopted HRCSA program of projects.

In accordance with the Guidelines, staff recommends that the Commission indicate its intent to:

- update the HRCSA Guidelines at the April 2010 meeting to address future programming actions;
- amend the program to delete projects that do not meet delivery timelines; and,
- adopt a schedule for programming uncommitted funds, pursuant to a new call for projects, and after the release of the new PUC priority list.