

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 23-24, 2011

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

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **TRADE CORRIDORS IMPROVEMENT FUND (TCIF) – PROGRAM AMENDMENT
RESOLUTION TCIF-P-1011-17**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission approve the proposed TCIF Program Amendment to delete TCIF Project 49: *Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project* from the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program and reprogram the \$10 million of TCIF funds on the *Avenue 52 Grade Separation Project*, also in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program?

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission staff recommends that the Commission approve the proposed TCIF Program Amendment to delete TCIF Project 49: *Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project* from the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program and reprogram the \$10 million of TCIF funds on the *Avenue 52 Grade Separation Project*.

BACKGROUND:

The Southern California Consensus Group (SCCG) and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the City of Coachella, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments propose to amend the TCIF Program by deleting TCIF Project 49: *Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project* in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program and reprogramming the \$10 million of TCIF funds on the *Avenue 52 Grade Separation Project*, which is also in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program.

TCIF Project 49: *Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project* was funded with TCIF and local funds. Due to declining cash flow as a result of the current economic downturn, the local funds are no longer available for this project. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds totaling \$10.2 million, however, are available for the *Avenue 52 Grade Separation Project* and matched with the \$10 million of TCIF funds currently programmed on TCIF Project 49 will fully fund the *Avenue 52 Grade Separation Project*. Both grade separation projects are located on the Yuma Subdivision of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Mainline and both projects will allow for UPRR expansion, improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas and PM 2.6 emissions, improve railroad system reliability, velocity and throughput, and will reduce the negative impacts on the community.

The SCCG supports the proposed amendment to the TCIF Program and requests the Commission's concurrence (see attached letter dated February 3, 2011).



Metro

February 3, 2011

Ms. Bimla Rhinehart
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, 2nd Floor – MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Rhinehart:

The Southern California Consensus Group supports RCTC's requested amendment regarding the substitution of the Avenue 52 Grade Separation Project in place of Avenue 66 funded through the TCIF program. We understand that as part of this requested amendment, \$10 million in TCIF funds will be transferred from Avenue 66 to Avenue 52. We also understand that the Avenue 66 Grade Separation Project will no longer be part of the TCIF program subject to CTC approval.

Please see the attached letter from RCTC detailing the requested changes. Please direct any questions or comments regarding this issue to me at (213) 922-3061. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Shahrzad Amiri
Deputy Executive Officer

cc: Southern California Consensus Group
Andre Boutros
Maura Twomey