

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 24-25, 2020

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8d.(11), Action Item

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Division of Rail and Mass Transportation

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE FOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION RELIEF PROGRAM
PROJECTS, PER STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GUIDELINES
WAIVER 20-64**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project development expenditure for two projects, programmed in the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), for the time period identified in the attachment?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the Commission extend the period of project development expenditure for two projects, programmed in the TCRP, for the time period identified in the attachment.

BACKGROUND:

These agencies will not be able to request an allocation for funds by the June 30, 2020 deadline. The attachment shows the details of the project and the explanation for the delay. The project sponsors are requesting an extension, and the regional planning agency concurs.

Current Stipulated Settlement Agreement (STIP) Guidelines, adopted by the Commission, stipulate that funds that are programmed for all components of local grant projects, or for the Department construction (CON)costs, are available for allocation only until the end of the Fiscal Year identified in the STIP. The Commission may approve a waiver to this “timely use of funds” deadline, one-time only, for up to 20 months, in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.

Attachment

*“Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California’s economy and livability”*

Project Number: 1
Applicant: Los Angeles County Transportation Authority
County: Los Angeles
District: 7
PPNO: 4296
Allocated Amount: \$27,000,000
Phase: Project Approval and Environmental Document
Number of Months Requested: 20 Months
Extended Deadline: 02/28/22
Department Recommendation: Support

TCRP Project 38.2 – Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley North-South Bus Transit

TCRP Project 38.2 – Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley North-South Bus Transit (Project 38.2) will increase the intermodal connectivity between bus and commuter rail in the San Fernando Valley by connecting with the Metro Orange Line to the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station. The project will also provide new service and infrastructure that would improve passenger mobility to regional activity centers and increase transit service efficiency while reducing auto traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.

In October 2016, under Resolution TFP-16-07, the Commission allocated \$9,000,000 to the construction phase of Project 38.2. As a result of the complexity of the project, in June 2017, under Resolution TFP-16-27, the funds were redistributed to the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase. At that time, under Resolution TFP 16-25, the Commission also allocated an additional \$18,000,000 in TCRP funds for the PA&ED phase.

The implementing agency, Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (Metro), has dealt with multiple changes requested by community leaders over the course of continued project development. The unavoidable extra amount of time taken in responding to changes, including the developmental challenges which resulted from requested changes, required Metro to extend the schedule for completion of the PA&ED phase. Metro staff is currently working with the Federal Transit Administration to finalize the National Environmental Protection Agency document and prepare it for the issuance of a Record of Decision. Subsequently, Metro plans to take the combined document, including California Environmental Quality Act disclosures, to the Metro Board for certification, and complete the PA&ED phase within the updated schedule's time frame. Therefore, Metro respectfully requests a 20-month extension for the project development expenditure period to February 28, 2022.

In accordance with TCRP policy, the Commission may approve a waiver to the "timely use of funds" deadline, one-time only, for up to 20 months, for allocations approved following the enactment of Senate Bill 1.

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Project Number: 2
Applicant: Transportation Agency for Monterey County
County: Monterey
District: 5
PPNO: T0073
Allocated Amount: \$18,123,000
Phase: Plans, Specifications, & Estimates
Number of Months Requested: 20 Months
Extended Deadline: 02/28/22
Department Recommendation: Support

TCRP Project 7.3 – Caltrain Service Improvement Project Phase III

TCRP Project 7.3 – Caltrain Service Improvement Project Phase III (Project 7.3) is one of several projects to ultimately accommodate new passengers in surrounding counties by extending rail from Santa Clara County to Salinas in Monterey County, specifically constructing track improvements between Gilroy and Salinas, including vehicle/pedestrian grade crossing improvements at Luchessa Avenue and 10th Street in Gilroy to support the increased passenger train service.

In June 2013, under Resolution TAA-10-14, the Commission amended the TCRP by adding Project 7.3 (PPNO T0073) and re-allocated TCRP funds from a Santa Clara County TCRP project to Project 7.3 for the Plans, Specifications, Estimates (PS&E) and Construction (CON) phases.

In May 2018, under Resolution TFP-17-05, the implementing agency, Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) re-allocated TCRP funds due to delays in finalizing utility relocations which caused further progress-delays in the PS&E and Right of Way phases. The re-allocation approved in May 2018 allowed TAMC to continue work for the CON and PS&E phases, however time expended attempting to negotiate with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) has resulted in further delays. TAMC has met with UPRR to request their consideration and review of design plans, and negotiations have continued. Additionally, the California State Transportation Agency and Caltrain, now acting as the conduit for UPRR negotiations, have requested UPRR to prioritize the review of TAMC's design plans after some rail capacity design work the UPRR is doing for other projects. As a result, TAMC is conservatively estimating the completion of final design work by February 2022. Therefore, TAMC respectfully requests a 20-month extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase to February 28, 2022.

In accordance with TCRP policy, the Commission may approve a waiver to the "timely use of funds" deadline, one-time only, for up to 20 months, for allocations approved following the enactment of Senate Bill 1.

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