

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 24-25, 2020

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8d.(8), Action Item

Prepared By: Kyle Gradinger, Chief
Division of Rail and Mass Transportation

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE FOR LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PROJECTS, PER LPP
GUIDELINES
WAIVER 20-51**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project development expenditure 20-months, from June 30, 2020 to February 28, 2022, for the Local Partnership Program (LPP) – Formulaic projects, in San Diego County?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation recommends the Commission extend the period of project development expenditure 20-months, from June 30, 2020 to February 28, 2022, for the LPP – Formulaic projects, in San Diego County?

BACKGROUND:

In June 2018, under Resolution LPP-A-1718-10, the Commission allocated a total of \$8,470,000 in LPP Formulaic funds to the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates phases for four projects to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), in San Diego County. SANDAG, as the responsible agency, has been unable to complete the project phases within expenditure periods due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances. The attachment describes the details of the projects and explanations for the delays.

Current LPP Guidelines, adopted by the Commission, stipulate that funds allocated for project development must be expended by the end of the second fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the funds were allocated. The Commission may approve a waiver to the “timely use of funds” deadline, one-time only, for up to 12 months. The 2020 Interim Timely Use of Funds Policy, adopted by the Commission, allows for a maximum time extension of 20 months for the project development expenditure periods.

Attachment

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

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Development Expenditure Deadline
Local Partnership Program – Formulaic**

Project: LOSSAN SB Subdivision Doubletrack (CP Eastbrook – CP Shell)

Applicant: San Diego Association of Governments

County: San Diego

District : 11

PPNO: LP001

Phase: Plans, Specifications, and Estimates

Allocated Amount: \$2,000,000

Balance: \$1,692,375

Allocation Date: June 28, 2018

Allocation Resolution Number: LPP-A-1718-10

Number of Months Requested: 20 Months

Extended deadline: February 28, 2022

Department Recommendation: Support

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) requests a 20-month time extension for the period of project development expenditure for the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) phase for the LOSSAN SB Subdivision Doubletrack (CP Eastbrook – CP Shell) project. The project is located along the coastal LOSSAN rail corridor in the city of Oceanside and includes construction of 0.8 miles of double-track to eliminate a single-track bottleneck (Eastbrook/Shell), and replacement of the aging rail bridge over the San Luis Rey River.

The PS&E phase is approximately 85 percent complete. However, there have been delays in ongoing coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement additional scope changes, which has also been exacerbated by a slow-down in inter-agency coordination related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The scope changes were a result of the city of Oceanside's recommendation for construction of a new vehicular undercrossing. Similar impacts have occurred in ongoing coordination to address concerns about vibration in the project limits per the relocation of the crossover. The application for the additional undercrossing is currently being prepared for submittal to the CPUC but cannot be completed until 90 percent design is finalized; and it will be further impacted based on the noise and vibration study findings. Additionally, the preparation of the application, including anticipated comments and resolution, will require extensive coordination between the design-contractor, SANDAG, CPUC, and the North County Transit District. All four parties have experience delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, SANDAG

Reference No.: 2.8d.(8)

June 24-25, 2020

Attachment

Page 2 of 5

respectfully requests a 20-month extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase to February 28, 2022.

Project: LOSSAN Batiquitos Lagoon Doubletrack/Bridge (MP234.5-MP235.5)

Applicant: SANDAG

County: San Diego

District : 11

PPNO: LP002

Phase: Plans, Specifications, and Estimates

Allocated Amount: \$1,250,000

Balance: \$698,500.02

Allocation Date: June 28, 2018

Allocation Resolution Number: LPP-A-1718-10

Number of Months Requested: 20 Months

Extended deadline: February 28, 2022

Department Recommendation: Support

SANDAG requests a 20-month time extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase for the LOSSAN Batiquitos Lagoon Doubletrack/Bridge (MP234.5-MP235.5). The project is located along the coastal rail corridor over the Batiquitos Lagoon from Mile Post (MP) 234.4 to MP235.2 and includes construction of 0.8 miles of new double-track, and a new railroad bridge over the Batiquitos Lagoon to replace the existing wood trestle bridge.

The PS&E phase is approximately 85 percent complete and the project schedule has been extended due to 3rd party coordination with involved environmental resource agencies, and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional time and coordination are needed for the preparation of an updated Biological Assessment (BA) resulting from non-concurrent determination of the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative, concerning impacts of rail alignment for placement of the new bridge to the west of the existing bridge. Further delays occurred during review of the updated BA by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and continuing Section 7 Consultation with stakeholders, including the United States Forest and Wildlife Service (USFWS). At the kickoff Section 7 coordination meeting, the USFWS's requested a wild life survey be conducted. Additional coordination and meetings with the ACOE and USFWS are still required post transmittal of the Section 7 consultation letter. Overall, coordination efforts have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as meetings were cancelled and personnel continues adjusting to working remotely for an indefinite period. The wildlife survey scope will not be approved by the onset of the 2020 bird mating season and will be rescheduled to occur during the 2021 nesting season. Therefore, SANDAG respectfully requests a 20-month extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase to February 28, 2022.

Project: LOSSAN San Dieguito Lagoon Doubletrack/Bridge Platform (242.2-243.9)
Applicant: SANDAG
County: San Diego
District : 11
PPNO: LP003
Phase: Plans, Specifications, and Estimates
Allocated Amount: \$3,500,000
Balance: \$2,428,242.35
Allocation Date: June 28, 2018
Allocation Resolution Number: LPP-A-1718-10
Number of Months Requested: 20 Months
Extended deadline: February 28, 2022
Department Recommendation: Support

SANDAG requests a 20-month time extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase for the LOSSAN San Dieguito Lagoon Doubletrack/Bridge Platform (242.2-243.9). The project is located on the coastal LOSSAN rail corridor, extending from the city of Solano Beach down to the city of Del Mar and includes the installation of 1.7 miles of double-track, replacement of the aging railroad bridge over the San Dieguito Lagoon, and installation of a special events platform adjacent to the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

The PS&E phase is approximately 90 percent complete and the project has already obtained all environmental permits. However, the PS&E schedule needs to be extended to implement design changes from a value engineering study that was performed on the project, which required ongoing coordination with the CPUC regarding new railroad crossings. In addition, further delays are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the value engineering study, conducted to improve overall constructability and ensure safe operations during construction was successful, the process accounts for approximately a four-month schedule delay. Additionally, at 60 percent design, the previous schedule allowed for only two-months to achieve CPUC authorization. However, the formal application process for new railroad crossings required additional coordination and review efforts with the CPUC's Railroad Crossings and Engineering Branch, and CPUC Docket Office which caused further delays. As a result of COVID-19, coordination delays to review comments from stakeholders and site meetings with franchise utilities and stakeholders, have been postponed. COVID-19 has also disrupted the timing for implementing approved concepts from the value engineering study into the final design process. Therefore, SANDAG respectfully requests a 20-month extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase to February 28, 2022.

Project: LOSSAN SD Subdivision Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 (MP251.2-MP253)
Applicant: San Diego Association of Governments
County: San Diego
District : 11
PPNO: LP004
Phase: Plans, Specifications, and Estimates
Allocated Amount: \$1,720,000
Balance: \$500,585.38
Allocation Date: June 28, 2018
Allocation Resolution Number: LPP-A-1718-10
Number of Months Requested: 20 Months
Extended deadline: February 28, 2022
Department Recommendation: Support

SANDAG requests a 20-month time extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase for the LOSSAN SD Subdivision Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 (MP251.2-MP253). The project is located along the LOSSAN rail corridor from MP250.9-MP253; and includes construction of 1.9 miles of double track, curve straightening and new signals.

The PS&E phase is approximately 70 percent complete, but previous and ongoing coordination with the city of San Diego and landowners in the project vicinity, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic related impacts, have caused project delivery schedule delays. As part of the curve straightening component excavation, material must be placed in the vicinity of the project site. The parcel adjacent to the project area has been identified for placement of the excavated material for regrading. However, coordination with the municipality per placement of spoil excavations has caused an unintended delay in the project delivery schedule. In addition, schedule delays have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in postponed in-person meetings, and indefinite reductions in City review staff for pending plan submittals. The approximate schedule delays, concurrent with the delays for the municipal's Department of Development Services and Public Utilities Department to obtain City Council approval, is estimated to be 20 months. Therefore, SANDAG respectfully requests a 20-month extension for the period of project development expenditure for the PS&E phase to February 28, 2022.