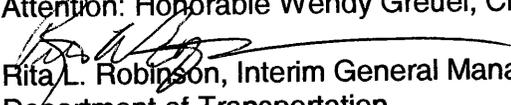


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: November 8, 2007

To: The Honorable City Council
 c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
 Attention: Honorable Wendy Greuel, Chair, Transportation Committee

From: 
 Rita L. Robinson, Interim General Manager
 Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT: SECOND REPORT ON THE UPDATE OF THE COASTAL TRANSPORTATION
 CORRIDOR SPECIFIC PLAN (CF 07-0287)**

In response to a Motion presented by Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, the Department of Transportation (DOT) presented a report to the Transportation Committee on October 24, 2007 on the tasks necessary to update the Coastal Transportation Corridor Specific Plan (CTCSP). This second report responds to the concerns and questions raised by your Committee at the meeting and provides more detail regarding the transfer of CTCSP funds into the appropriate salary accounts to fund the two new positions.

RECOMMENDATION

In addition to the recommendations set forth in DOT's report of October 15, 2007, this report recommends:

1. That the City Council AUTHORIZE the appropriation and transfer of funds to provide for two new positions recommended in the October 15 report FROM the Coastal Transportation Corridor Specific Plan Trust Fund 447, Department 94, TO the following accounts, upon the request of DOT's General Manager:
 - a. Department of Transportation Fund No. 100, Department No. 94:
 Transfer and appropriate \$50,000 to Account 1010 (Salaries, General), \$2,500 to Account No. 1090 (Salaries, Overtime), and \$5,000 to Account 6010 (Office and Administration Expense), to cover the salary costs for the remainder of the current fiscal year (estimated to be six months).
 - b. Department of City Planning Fund No. 100, Department No. 68:
 Transfer \$45,000 to Account 1010 (Salaries, General), \$2,500 to Account No. 1090 (Salaries, Overtime), and \$5,000 to Account 6010 (Office and Administration Expense). These amounts would cover the salary costs for the remainder of the fiscal year (estimated to be six months).
2. APPROVE resolution authority for the following new positions on an annual basis, for the duration of the CTCSP update:
 - a. One new Transportation Engineering Associate (Class No. 7280-3) position for the Department of Transportation
 - b. One new City Planning Associate (Class No. 7941) position for the Department of City Planning

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DISCUSSION

Given the example of past efforts to amend other Transportation Specific Plans and the amount of time needed to complete and certify an EIR, the CTCSP Update project is expected to take three years to complete. At the Transportation Committee meeting of October 24, 2007, Committee members expressed concern regarding this estimated duration and stressed the need to complete the restudy in a more expeditious manner.

The new key tasks that are expected to require the most time to complete are the development of the travel demand simulation model needed to prepare a comprehensive traffic study and preparation of the necessary environmental impact documents. DOT will attempt to fast-track the preparation of the traffic study by assigning existing staff (in addition to the new recommended position) that has already been trained in the review of travel demand simulation models and in the preparation of Transportation Specific Plans to the project. Further, since the CTCSP area includes Playa Vista and the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), a significant amount of traffic volume data has been collected in this area in the last five years and has a large database of this date, which can be used by the consultant to prepare the traffic study. Therefore, the initial task of collecting traffic data will require minimal staff effort. In assigning key staff to this project and in removing the need for the consultant to collect data, the project can potentially be completed in two-and-half years, instead of the estimated three-year duration.

Another concern raised at the Committee meeting was potential impacts along major roadways feeding into the CTCSP area from bordering communities. The current improvement list in the CTCSP does not include any projects outside of the CTCSP area. With key destinations within the CTCSP, like LAX and the coastal communities of Playa del Rey and Venice, it was recommended that the study evaluate how outside traffic impacts the transportation system in and around the CTCSP. Then, with a better understanding as regards how the overall regional transportation system is impacted by these trips, the ultimate transportation improvement program could include improvements to regional facilities, such as freeway ramp and feeder roadways that lie outside of the Specific Plan area. However, to do so, the analysis must clearly demonstrate through a nexus study that any such improvements provide relief within the CTCSP area.

Additionally, the CTCSP improvement list will be revised to allow DOT and the Department of City Planning to regularly update and prioritize programs as Community Plan areas within the CTCSP boundary area are updated. The improvement list would be easily amended as projects are completed and would include the prioritization of transit enhancements as funds for such projects become available.

To provide oversight and review of all consultant-produced work products, including the EIR, the initial DOT report identified staffing costs for DOT and the Department of City Planning (DCP) needed from the CTCSP Trust Fund. Two new positions are needed to restudy and update the CTCSP. DOT and DCP would each require one new position to manage the consultant contracts, provide technical review, attend public workshops and commission hearings, prepare relevant staff reports, and to lead the Environmental Impact Report certification process. The CTCSP Trust Fund would provide the necessary funds to hire one new City Planning Associate (Class No. 7941)

position for the DCP, and one new Transportation Engineering Associate (Class Code 7280-3) position for DOT.

To reiterate an item listed in the first report, the CTCSP Update project is one of many transportation studies in the Westside expected to commence in the next two to three years. Other studies include the Green Line Extension (CF 04-2105), the Lincoln Corridor Task Force Phase 2 (CF 06-1788-S1), the Livable Boulevards Study (CF 07-1211), the Sepulveda Boulevard Major Investment Study (CF 06-1788-S2), and the West Los Angeles Rail Linkages Study (CF 07-0509). The new position proposed for DOT to oversee the CTCSP Update will lead the coordination of these various transportation mobility improvement studies. Also, at the conclusion of the CTCSP Update project, this new position will take the lead in the technical review and oversight of the other study efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT

Please refer to the first DOT report on this item dated October 15, 2007.

COORDINATION

Please refer to the first DOT report on this item dated October 15, 2007.

c: Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, CD #11
Grieg Asher, CD #11
Gail Goldberg/Betsy Weisman, DCP