

Memorandum

Tab 68

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 25, 2015

Reference No.: 4.8
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **TRADE CORRIDORS IMPROVEMENT FUND (TCIF) PROGRAM AMENDMENT
RESOLUTION TCIF-P-1415-14**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) amend the TCIF Program to add the *Citrus Avenue Grade Crossing Improvement Project, Ramona Boulevard Grade Crossing Improvement Project, and Control Point Soledad Speed Increase Project* in Los Angeles County as TCIF Projects 111, 112 and 113 at a cost of \$1.455 million, \$1.455 million and \$2.708 million respectively in TCIF funds?

RECOMMENDATION:

Commission staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed TCIF Program Amendment to add into the TCIF Program projects 111, 112 and 113, the *Citrus Avenue Grade Crossing Improvement Project, Ramona Boulevard Grade Crossing Improvement Project, and Control Point Soledad Speed Increase Project*.

BACKGROUND:

Project 111

The Southern California Consensus Group (SCCG) and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) propose to amend the TCIF program by including the Citrus Avenue Grade Crossing Improvement Project as Project 111 in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program and program \$1.455 million of TCIF funds to the project.

The proposed project will make improvements at the Citrus Avenue Grade Crossing in the City of Covina on the San Bernardino Railroad Line. The improvements include new raised median island gate arms, flashing signals, right of way swing gates, advance signal preemption, track panel upgrades, pedestrian treatments, traffic signals, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, utility relocation and lighting upgrades. These improvements will improve operations and enhance safety which will benefit passenger and freight trains, roadway vehicles and pedestrians.

Since award savings in TCIF funds were realized in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor, SCCG and SCRRA propose to place TCIF savings on this project (see attached letters). The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.485 million. Construction is expected to begin in September 2016.

Project 112

The Southern California Consensus Group (SCCG) and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) propose to amend the TCIF program by including the Ramona Boulevard Grade Crossing Improvement Project as Project 112 in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program and program \$1.455 million of TCIF funds to the project.

The proposed project will make improvements at the Ramona Boulevard Grade crossing in the City of Baldwin Park on the San Bernardino Railroad Line. The improvements include new raised median islands, flashing signals, right of way swing gates, advance signal preemption, track panel upgrades, pedestrian treatments, traffic signals, sidewalk, curb gutters, utility relocation, and widening the turning radii at Ramona Boulevard. These improvements will increase the safety of the crossing for pedestrians and vehicles, reduce collisions and associated property damage, reduce potential injuries and loss of life, as well as reduce the number of delays to both train and street traffic resulting from collisions and near-misses.

Since award savings in TCIF funds were realized in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor, SCCG and SCRRA propose to place TCIF savings on this project (see attached letters). The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.485 million. Construction is expected to begin in October 2016.

Project 113

The Southern California Consensus Group (SCCG) and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) propose to amend the TCIF program by including the Control Point Soledad Speed Increase Project as Project 113 in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor element of the TCIF Program and program \$2.708 million of TCIF funds to the project.

The proposed project will make improvements to the track system, signal and communication systems at Control Point Soledad in the City of Santa Clarita on the Antelope Valley Railroad Line. The improvements include upgrading turnouts, rehabilitating the spur track and siding track, improving drainage and other related improvements. The proposed improvements will support speed increases from 20 mph to 35 mph. The increase in speed will allow trains to move through the siding faster with an overall time savings for freight trains of approximately 10-15 minutes.

Since award savings in TCIF funds were realized in the Los Angeles/Inland Corridor, SCCG and SCRRA propose to place TCIF savings on this project (see attached letters). The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6.648 million. Construction is expected to begin in October 2016.

RESOLUTION TCIF-P-1415-12

Be it Resolved, that the California Transportation Commission does hereby amend the TCIF program by adding the Citrus Avenue Grade Crossing Improvement Project, Ramona Boulevard Grade Crossing Improvement Project, and Control Point Soledad Speed Increase Project in Los Angeles County as TCIF Project 111, TCIF Project 112 and TCIF Project 113.

Attachments

- Letters of Support



Metro

May 7, 2015

Mr. Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 "N" Street, Mail Stop: 52
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Dear Mr. Kempton:

The Southern California Consensus Group has discussed and is in agreement with the TCIF programming requested by our partner agency. It is our understanding that the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is requesting to seek funding of \$1,455,000 in TCIF for the construction of the Citrus Avenue Grade Crossing Improvement.

Please see the attached letter detailing the programming request. We understand SCRRA intends to submit a formal application to the CTC for action in June 2015. Please direct any questions or comments regarding this issue to me at (213) 922-2887.

We appreciate the ongoing support and guidance provided by you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Wil Ridder
Executive Officer

cc: Southern California Consensus Group
Stephen Maller



UPDATED
May 7, 2015

Mr. Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Program and Approve the Baseline Agreement for \$1,455,000 in TCIF Funding for Citrus Avenue Crossing Improvement Project on the San Bernardino Line at the June 24-25, 2015 CTC Meeting

Dear Will:

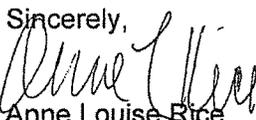
In our February 9, 2015 request letter we asked for an allocation of \$2,910,000 in TCIF funds for Citrus Avenue and Ramona Boulevard grade crossing improvements. We would now like to decouple the two crossings and submit each as separate projects. The total amount we are requesting for Citrus Avenue, which is located in Covina in Los Angeles County, is 50% of the \$2,910,000 or \$1,455,000. We will ask for the balance of \$1,455,000 for Ramona Boulevard in a separate request letter.

Please accept this letter as an update to original request. We are asking that the CTC program funding for the Citrus Avenue grade crossing project at its June 24-25, 2015 meeting. If approved, we expect to request an allocation in the spring of 2016, no later than June. The Citrus Avenue crossing is located on the San Bernardino Line, the third busiest shared freight and passenger rail route that SCRRA dispatches. It requires enhancements to reduce opportunities for unsafe driving and walking. By adding treatments such as flashing signals, advanced signal preemption, pedestrian gates and vehicular gates at the crossing, reliability, throughput and velocity of freight traffic will be improved. Congestion and emissions will also be reduced.

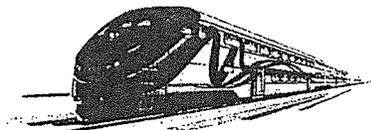
The project request is for \$1,455,000 which is matched by local funds. Again, the project is ready for programming and baseline agreement approval.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ricea@scrra.net or 213-452-0211.

Sincerely,


Anne Louise Rice
Assistant Director, Grants

cc: Stephen Maller
Teresa Favila





Metro

May 7, 2015

Mr. Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 "N" Street, Mail Stop: 52
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Dear Mr. Kempton:

The Southern California Consensus Group has discussed and is in agreement with the TCIF programming requested by our partner agency. It is our understanding that the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is requesting to seek funding of \$1,455,000 in TCIF for the construction of the Ramona Blvd. Grade Crossing Improvement.

Please see the attached letter detailing the programming request. We understand SCRRA intends to submit a formal application to the CTC for action in June 2015. Please direct any questions or comments regarding this issue to me at (213) 922-2887.

We appreciate the ongoing support and guidance provided by you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Wil Ridder
Executive Officer

cc: Southern California Consensus Group
Stephen Maller

UPDATED
May 7, 2015

Mr. Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Program and Approve the Baseline Agreement for \$1,455,000 in TCIF Funding for Ramona Boulevard Crossing Improvement Project on the San Bernardino Line at the June 24-25, 2015 CTC Meeting

Dear Will:

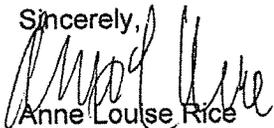
In our February 9, 2015 request letter we asked for an allocation of \$2,910,000 in TCIF funds for Ramona Boulevard and Citrus Avenue grade crossing improvements. We would now like to decouple the two crossings and submit each as separate projects. The total amount we are requesting for Ramona Boulevard, which is located in Baldwin Park in Los Angeles County, is 50% of the \$2,910,000 or \$1,455,000. We will ask for the balance of \$1,455,000 for Citrus Avenue in a separate request letter.

Please accept this letter as an update to original request. We are asking that the CTC program funding for the Ramona Boulevard grade crossing project at its June 24-25, 2015 meeting. If approved, we expect to request an allocation in the spring of 2016, no later than June. The Ramona Boulevard crossing is located on the San Bernardino Line, the third busiest shared freight and passenger rail route that SCRRA dispatches. It requires enhancements to reduce opportunities for unsafe driving and walking. By adding treatments such as flashing signals, advanced signal preemption, pedestrian gates and vehicular gates at the crossing, reliability, throughput and velocity of freight traffic will be improved. Congestion and emissions will also be reduced.

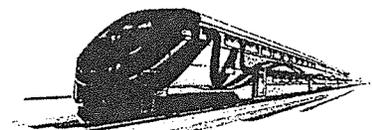
The project request is for \$1,455,000 which is matched by local funds. Again, the project is ready for programming and baseline agreement approval.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ricea@scrra.net or 213-452-0211.

Sincerely,


Anne Louise Rice
Assistant Director, Grants

cc: Stephen Maller
Teresa Favila





Metro

May 7, 2015

Mr. Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 "N" Street, Mail Stop: 52
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Dear Mr. Kempton:

The Southern California Consensus Group has discussed and is in agreement with the TCIF programming requested by our partner agency. It is our understanding that the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is requesting to seek funding of \$2,707,500 in TCIF for the construction of the Control Point Soledad Speed Increase Project.

Please see the attached letter detailing the programming request. We understand SCRRA intends to submit a formal application to the CTC for action in June 2015. Please direct any questions or comments regarding this issue to me at (213) 922-2887.

We appreciate the ongoing support and guidance provided by you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Wil Ridder
Executive Officer

cc: Southern California Consensus Group
Stephen Maller

METROLINK®



Southern California Regional Rail Authority

February 9, 2015

Mr. Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Program and Approve the Baseline Agreement for \$2,707,500 in TCIF Funding for the Control Point Soledad Speed Increase Project on the Antelope Valley Line at the May 27-28, 2015 CTC Meeting

Dear Will:

On behalf of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), operator of Metrolink commuter rail service, I am writing to request the California Transportation Commission approve our request to place the Control Point Soledad Speed Increase on the Antelope Valley Line Project on its March 25-26, 2015 meeting agenda. This project, located on the busiest shared freight and passenger rail route that SCRRA dispatches, will enable freight speeds to increase by 43% so that it matches the mainline speed in this same segment. This project will additionally improve safety, reliability and throughput while also reducing congestion and emissions.

The project request is for \$2,707,500 which is matched by local funds. Again, the project is ready for programming and baseline agreement approval.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Anne Louise Rice, Assistant Director, Grants at ricea@scrra.net or 213-452-0211.

Sincerely,



Sam Joublat
Interim Chief Executive Officer

cc: Stephen Maller
Teresa Favila

