



Memorandum

DATE: March 3, 2011
TO: Programs and Projects Committee
From: John Hemiup, Senior Transportation Engineer
Subject: Approval of CMA TIP funding for the East Bay SMART Corridor

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission approve the advancement of \$400,000 in CMA TIP funding for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the East Bay SMART Corridors Program, to be paid back from the future Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) revenue, subject to a VRF funding program guideline to be adopted by the Commission in the future.

Background

The East Bay SMART Corridors program is a cooperative effort by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and 17 other partner agencies to operate and manage a multi-modal advanced transportation management system (ATMS) along four corridors:

- Interstate 80 /San Pablo Avenue Corridor,
- Interstate 880 Corridor,
- International Boulevard/Telegraph Avenue/East 14th Street (INTEL) Corridor, and,
- Interstate 580 Tri-Valley Corridor

The former ACCMA has utilized various funding sources to finance the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of the SMART Corridors Program for the last eight years. Anticipated federal funding for O&M has not been available for the last three years, from FY 2008-09 through FY 2010-11. To deal with the Program insolvency, funding from the CMA Fund Exchange Program (CMA TIP) was utilized to supplement the O&M budget in FY 2009-10. In the current fiscal year (2010-11), given the financial constraints of the ACCMA and other partner agencies, many of the O&M services have been suspended. However, with a scant amount of available funding, minimum services to maintain electrical power and communication lines are being maintained.

With the passage of the Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) in Alameda County, future revenue is anticipated to provide a funding source for the O&M for the East Bay SMART Corridors Program. However, based on current information, revenues from the VRF will not be available until the second quarter of FY 2011-12. Therefore, staff is recommending that funding from the

CMA TIP be advanced in the interim to cover minimal O&M expenses for FY 2010-11, and be paid back with future VRF funding.

Current Funding Shortfall

The SMART Corridors O&M program has a projected operating budget of \$654,000 for FY 2010-11.

Funding contributions of \$200,000 from AC Transit and \$54,000 from Tri-Valley Transportation Council (TVTC) are anticipated for this fiscal year, resulting in a shortfall of \$400,000. VRF revenues are anticipated to be made available for the East Bay SMART Corridor O&M cost contingent on the approval of a VRF program/guidelines and specific project/program funding plans. It is proposed that VRF eligible expenses will be reimbursed by the VRF program and a like amount of funds paid back to the CMA TIP programs.

Staff will continue to explore other revenue sources or contributions from local agencies where the field devices are located, to supplement the O&M expenses for the East Bay SMART Corridor in the future.

Financial Impact

This action will fully fund East Bay SMART Corridors O&M expenses for FY 10/11. If additional VRF funds are approved as anticipated, the additional revenue and any payback would be included in the FY 11/12 budget.