

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Route 135/Clark Avenue (West) Park and Ride Lot Improvements

MEETING DATE: August 21, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6D

STAFF CONTACT: Sarkes Khachek

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an expenditure plan amendment allocating up to \$48,000 in additional regional Measure D funds for lot improvements (requires two-thirds majority approval or nine affirmative votes) and authorize the Executive Director to amend the cooperative agreement with Caltrans.

SUMMARY:

In February, the SBCAG Board of Directors approved a Measure D expenditure plan amendment and authorized the executive director to execute a cooperative agreement with Caltrans allocating \$60,000 in Regional Measure D funding for improvements to the Highway 135/Clark Avenue (West) Park and Ride Lot in Orcutt. The Regional Measure D funding will be used by Caltrans to resurface the existing spaces, provide twenty additional parking spaces, include new lighting for the existing and additional spaces and will install new bicycle lockers. Caltrans will provide the engineering and construction management staff resources for the project. Caltrans has completed bidding the project and the apparent low bid is approximately \$100,000 including contingencies. The high bid of the three received, including contingencies, is approximately \$120,000.

Caltrans is requesting, and staff is recommending, that SBCAG authorize up to an additional \$48,000 in order to award the contract and allow the project to be constructed now. If the SBCAG board does not approve an expenditure plan amendment in August, Caltrans will not be able to award the contract within the 30 day window for which the bid is valid and the project will have to be re-bid. It is SBCAG and Caltrans' opinion that a re-bid of the project would not yield better bids.

DISCUSSION:



The Route 135/Clark Avenue (West) Park and Ride Lot in Orcutt is one of many operated by Caltrans in District 5. The park and ride lot offers a convenient and safe location in Orcutt to transfer from a single passenger vehicle to the Breeze bus, carpool, or vanpool. The Route 135/Clark Avenue (West) Park and Ride Lot is so heavily used that regular users have contacted Caltrans and SBCAG Traffic Solutions to express concern that there are times when the lot reaches maximum capacity. In fact, a member of the public submitted a petition with 35 signatures to the SBCAG

Board at its January meeting requesting improvements to the lot, including additional spaces.

SBCAG staff surveyed users of the west lot and the east lot in January. Most persons using the lots are carpooling to Vandenberg Air Force Base and employment destinations in Lompoc. Some users of the lot connect to the Breeze Bus. Additionally, some users requested better lighting, more parking spaces, easier exit and entry (West lot), bike lockers, a resurfaced lot, and alternative sprinkler schedules so cars do not get sprayed during the day when the lot is in use (East lot).

SBCAG entered into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans after Board approval in February to utilize regional Measure D funding to provide improvements in a community (Orcutt) that appeared to be the most skeptical about the benefits of Measure D based on the 2006 election results. Although Orcutt has clearly benefited from the transportation improvements funded through Measure D, these have consisted primarily of local road repair and maintenance projects (funded from the County's local share of Measure D) and transit services rather than more visible major capital improvement projects.

The board approved a Measure D expenditure plan amendment in February authorizing \$60,000 in regional Measure D funds for the project. This amount was based on the engineer's estimate prepared by Caltrans.

The cooperative agreement identifies Caltrans as the lead agency and Measure D funds to fund all capital improvements. The specified improvements include resurfacing the existing spaces, providing up to twenty additional parking spaces for a total of up to 45 available spaces, new lighting for the existing and additional spaces and new bike lockers to replace existing bike lockers which are old and damaged.

A temporary Measure D sign will be posted at the lot during the construction. Once construction is complete, a permanent sign will be erected recognizing that the improvements were funded by Measure D. There will also be new permanent sign installed providing information about how to contact SBCAG Traffic Solutions about carpooling information.

Project Bidding

Caltrans has completed the bidding process for the project. Three bids were received. The low bid, including contingencies, is \$100,000, and the high bid is approximately \$120,000. Significant differences between Caltrans' engineers estimate and the bids are for lighting and landscaping/irrigation. Staff is recommending that an additional \$48,000 in Measure D funds be authorized to award the contract to the apparent low bidder. The \$48,000 allocation includes sufficient funding for contingencies and would allow the project to be awarded to the second lowest bidder if it is determined that the apparent low bidder does not meet Caltrans contract requirements.

Caltrans has a 30 day window in which to award the contract, which requires that the board approve the funding in August or the project will have to be rebid. This would take an additional 2-3 months. SBCAG staff and Caltrans believe that the bids are generally accurate based on the three bids all including major items like lighting and landscaping at nearly the same cost. It appears the engineer's estimate underestimated the cost of these work items. So re-bidding the project wouldn't necessarily produce lower bids.

Amendments to Expenditure Plan and Agreement

SBCAG staff recommends amending the Measure D expenditure plan to include up to an additional \$48,000 from the unprogrammed Regional Program fund balance. Amending the Measure D expenditure plan requires approval by two-thirds majority of the board or at least 9 affirmative votes.

Staff is also recommending that the Executive Director be authorized to execute a cooperative agreement amendment with Caltrans to reimburse Caltrans for project costs up to \$108,000, rather than the \$60,000 in the current agreement.

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None.