

STAFF REPORT

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

MEETING DATE: February 21, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6A

STAFF CONTACT: Sarkes Khachek

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to add lighting and increase parking capacity at the Park & Ride lot.
- 2) Approve a Measure D expenditure plan amendment allocating up to \$60,000 in Regional Measure D funds for the lot improvement project. (Requires two-thirds majority approval or 9 affirmative votes)

SUMMARY:

SBCAG has an opportunity to use \$60,000 in Regional Measure D funding to provide improvements to the Highway 135/Clark Avenue (West) Park and Ride Lot in Orcutt. In partnership with Caltrans, the Regional Measure D funding will be used 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. The improvements are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008.

SBCAG staff recommends the Board take advantage of this opportunity to provide improvements to a heavily used Park and Ride lot in the community of Orcutt.

DISCUSSION:



The Route 135/Clark Avenue (West) Park and Ride Lot in Orcutt is one of many Park and Lots 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.

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

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 staff believes there is an opportunity to enter into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to utilize 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 cooperative agreement would identify Caltrans as the lead agency and use the Measure D funds to fund all capital improvements. The specified improvements would 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.

SBCAG staff recommends amending the Measure D expenditure plan to include the Route 135/Clark Avenue Park and Ride Lot improvements in the Regional Program to include \$60,000 from the unprogrammed 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 with Caltrans identifying the roles and responsibilities of each agency. Under the proposed agreement, Caltrans would serve as the lead agency for advertising, awarding and administering the project. SBCAG would reimburse Caltrans for project costs up to \$60,000.

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None.