



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: January 10, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Interim Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: SBCAG Commuter Rail Funding Request – Letter of Support

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter to the California Transportation Commission expressing support for SBCAG's request for Commuter Rail Funding.
- B. Find that the proposed action(s) do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of CEQA, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2) (continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making), the proposed action is therefore exempt from CEQA, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

SBCAG is requesting the County's support for their request to the California Transportation Commission for Commuter Rail Funding. This funding would be used to implement commuter rail service between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Rail service could be an attractive alternative to driving on US 101 between Santa Barbara and Ventura County, particularly during the upcoming freeway widening. Reducing the number of vehicles along the US 101 corridor in the coming years is important as construction continues along the highway. Support of this application would not divert funds from local roads, as these funds can only be used for projects of this type.

Background:

In the mid 2000's, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments commenced the "101 in Motion" transportation planning effort to evaluate methods to alleviate existing and future traffic congestion on the segment of US 101, between the City of Santa Barbara and the Ventura County line. The traffic modeling for this effort concluded that no single strategy alone (i.e. freeway widening or commuter rail) would effectively address the congestion. Both highway widening to six (6) lanes *and* a commuter rail service connecting the South Coast to the Oxnard/Ventura region would be required to alleviate existing and future congestion on Hwy. 101 effectively.

Over time, a commuter rail service would require significant investment in track upgrades, siding improvements, passenger station enhancements, and purchasing trains. These funds would provide the first step towards implementing operational improvements that would have an immediate effect.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

None

FTEs:

None

Special Instructions:

Please forward one copy of the certified stamped minute order to the attention of Gena Valentine Felix, Public Works Department, Transportation Division, ext. 3064.

Attachments:

Letter to the California Transportation Commission, expressing support for SBCAG's request for commuter rail funding

Authored by:

Gena Valentine Felix, Administrative Office Professional III, Transportation Division, 568-3064