

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION AGREEMENTS

ACTION: APPROVE RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION

AUTHORIZE the Chief Executive Officer to execute Memorandums of Understanding with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for its regional multi-modal planning efforts.

ISSUE

As Metro's projects and programs continue to expand due to the investment of local funds by county taxpayers and with the passage of SB 1, it is more incumbent upon Metro to work at the regional level to ensure that transportation planning for the region as a whole maximizes our investments in the transportation system and ensures connectivity across county lines.

DISCUSSION

Many of the projects pursued by Metro and our neighboring counties provide regional benefit and they rely on the counties working collaboratively. These partnerships are important and should be expanded to include planning activities for the various projects and services provided by Metro and other counties in Southern California.

The connections between Los Angeles County, and, our neighboring counties are indivisible and should be seamless for the commuting public. Our partner and neighbor agencies also share planning responsibilities similar to those of Metro. The connections between our counties help facilitate the ability of people to get to work, help businesses get to markets and help tourists access the world class tourist experiences in Southern California.

For example, Metro's Express Lanes program has proven to be of benefit to not just Los Angeles County's residents but to those of our neighboring counties. As this system grows it will be more proximate to our neighboring counties. The toll operators in Southern California have established cooperative working relationships to ensure ease of use for commuters.

Under the leadership of our immediate past Chair Eric Garcetti, Metro has engaged in discussions with the RCTC and OCTA to identify opportunities to collaborate and coordinate the collective efforts of our transportation agencies. As a result of those discussions it was identified that these cooperative relationships should be memorialized in Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between the Los Angeles and Orange and Riverside County transportation agencies. These MOUs establish the agreement of the respective agencies to collaborate on projects and programs between our counties. The MOUs further provide that each agency will coordinate with Caltrans and SCAG on regional intercounty transportation efforts as well as partnering with each

other on possible joint Federal and State funding opportunities for multi-county projects and efforts. These efforts could include freight projects and projects associated with the Los Angeles/Long Beach Port Complex.

The attached MOUs are the result of our collaborative discussions and identify the general areas of cooperation between all three agencies.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

There is no determined safety impact due to the enactment of the proposed MOUs.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could decide not to execute the MOUs, however, staff does not recommend this approach since the MOUs provide a basis for increased collaboration among the agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to executing the MOUs.