

<b>COUNTY OF SONOMA AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY REPORT</b>		Clerk of the Board Use Only Meeting Date                      Held Until ___/___/___                      ___/___/___ Agenda Item No:                      Agenda Item No: _____                      _____	
		<b>Department:</b> Transportation and Public Works                      [    ] <b>4/5 Vote Required</b>	
<b>Contact:</b> Phil Demery	<b>Phone:</b> (707) 565-3584	<b>Board Date:</b> 4/21/2009	<b>Deadline for Board Action:</b> 4/21/09
<b>Agenda Short Title:</b>  Requests for federal transportation authorization priorities  <b>Requested Board Action:</b>  Approve the list of transportation and transit projects for submission into the federal surface transportation funding re-authorization and allow staff to utilize existing advocacy resources.			
<b>CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>			
<u><b>EXPENDITURES</b></u>		<u><b>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</b></u>	
Estimated Cost	\$ -0-	Contingencies (Fund Name:                      )	\$
Amount Budgeted	\$ -0-	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:                      )	\$ -0-
Other Avail. Approp (Explain below)	\$	Other Transfer(s)	\$
<b>Additional Requested</b>	\$ - 0 -	<b>Add'l Funds Requested:</b>	\$ -0-
Explanation (if required): The actual funding amount associated with the Transportation and Public Works federal surface transportation funding re-authorization has not yet been determined.			
<b>Prior Board Action(s):</b> None.			
<b>Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:</b> County would not submit a funding request for the new five year transportation funding re-authorization.			

**Background:**

In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was passed by Congress and signed by the President. This bill utilizing federal gas taxes funded all Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the period of 2005-2009 and it expires September 30, 2009. This legislation is the primary federal transportation funding bill. In 2005 this bill distributed approximately \$285 billion in federal transportation funding.

This bill is up for re-authorization and Congressman Jim Oberstar, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has begun to move that bill toward a House Floor vote by the beginning of June. Further, Senator Barbara Boxer, Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, has begun work on the Senate version of this transportation re-authorization.

In response, Congressional members are requesting that local communities submit to them their funding priorities by April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for their review and potential inclusion into the new re-authorization bill. Both the Senate and House Committees through their staffs have requested to receive projects that have regional impacts and address safety and congestion concerns.

Given the funding opportunity that exists, Transportation and Public Works (TPW) staff, CAO staff and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) staff consulted to develop a focused list of County priorities based on previously identified county needs. In addition, staff has discussed this opportunity with the County and SCTA's federal advocates, and has prepared this list based on their recommendations regarding project types most likely to receive funding. Although the list being submitted does not include all identified county priorities, it does reflect those considered most viable for inclusion in the federal transportation re-authorization based on the qualifications of regional impact, congestion relief and improving safety. This list was part of the total SCTA package which was considered by the full SCTA Board on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This funding opportunity would not return until 2014 when the bill is again up for re-authorization.

With Board support, county staff would support advocacy efforts in collaboration with SCTA and with use of existing federal advocacy resources.

The projects being requested for submission which total **\$120 million** are:

- 1) **Marin-Sonoma Narrows (US 101) -- \$50 million** – Funding would support the next phase of the widening of US 101 between Petaluma and Novato – MSN Segment B. The Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), and Caltrans are partnering on the delivery of projects through construction for two new interchanges, a major curve alignment and drainage improvements, and new frontage roads within the first stages of the MSN Segment B projects. The Marin-Sonoma Narrows corridor is a vital regional transportation link and the only north/south corridor in the North Bay. The widening of Highway 101 to include High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and upgrading the highway to access controlled freeway design standards by the removal of intersections and driveways connecting to the highway, is long overdue. The MSN has received at approximately \$38.5 million in federal funding to date.
- 2) **Sonoma County Transit purchase of eight (8) new buses – \$4.0 million** -- This project proposes to purchase eight 40' compressed natural gas powered transit coaches. The County and the region are committed to a comprehensive effort to improve the air quality of this area. To this end, the County has replaced the diesel bus fleet with the clean burning equipment powered by natural gas. The County is scheduled to replace 8 buses over the next year to be

able to maintain service on all routes. In this difficult economy, transit has become more of a necessity to the general public & these new buses will help fill any gaps.

- 3) **US 101/Airport Interchange Reconstruction - \$50 million** -- This project proposes to reconstruct the Airport Boulevard interchange with US Highway 101 in central Sonoma County and is currently in the preliminary design stage where various alignments are being considered. This project includes a new 5-lane bridge over the mainline US 101 with two signalized connecting ramp intersections just east and west of the highway. Major modifications to all ramps will be required to meet volume needs and the current State standards for transitioning to and from Highway 101. A collector/distributor road from Airport Boulevard to Fulton Rd. is included to improve the interchange efficiency and safety. This is a critical interchange serving the regional airport and the adjacent business park. The business park is an important industrial & business growth area which depends on efficient traffic access. The existing configuration of the interchange does not meet current Caltrans & FHWA standards and coupled with ever growing volumes of traffic; the interchange is expected to fall to level of service "F" (the worst rating possible) in just a few years. At times now, ramp traffic backs up onto the mainline, creating serious safety & congestion concerns. There are several environmental issues that will be addressed as part of the design & permitting process. These items primarily relate to the adjacent streams that will have some impact from the road construction.
- 4) **Forestville Bypass - \$16 million** -- The project proposes to reconstruct a portion of State Route 116 with a separate link connecting to Mirabel Road. This is a significant safety improvement to this community. Portions of the right-of-way have been secured by developer subdivision process and County acquisitions. Staffs from Caltrans, SCTA, & the County are currently working on Phase 1 of this project which is a proposed a round-about intersection improvement at Hwy 116 & Mirabel.

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:**

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**