

Date: November 19, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: N/A

Board Meeting Date: December 13, 2007

**BOARD MEMORANDUM**

**ACTION ITEM**

**TO:** Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
Board of Directors

**THROUGH:** Michael T. Burns  
General Manager

**FROM:** John H. Ristow  
Chief CMA Officer

**SUBJECT:** Programming of Local Program Reserve (LPR) Funds

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**Policy-Related Action: Yes**

**Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the return of \$1,913,357 in unspent funds to the Local Program Reserve; approve the programming of \$2,815,000 in Local Program Reserve funds to projects discussed in this memorandum; and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate funding agreements, as needed.

**BACKGROUND:**

Previously the VTA Board approved LPR funds for the following projects:

- SR 25 Safety Project (\$400,000 in June 2006)
- US 101/Bailey Road Interchange (\$4,500,000 in March 2000)
- South County Circulation Study (\$500,000 in March 2005)
- Corridor Studies (\$1,400,000 in March 2002)
- Gateway Studies (\$1,850,000 March 2000)
- SR 85/US 101 North Landscaping (\$2,654,000 December 2004)
- I 880 Widening Landscaping (\$1,178,000 December 2004)
- SR 87 Landscaping (\$2,840,000 December 2004)

The projects listed above have either been completed or are no longer requiring the full LPR funding allocation. This memorandum is intended to reconcile the remaining balance of those

previously allocated and un-needed funds back to the LPR and to also recommend funding of several new additional projects.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Return Funds to LPR**

The VTA staff recommendation is to return the balance of unused funding to the LPR from the following projects:

#### **State Route 25 Safety Project - \$400,000**

The VTA Board provided \$400,000 in LPR funds for the SR 25 Safety Project that are no longer needed because the proposed improvements are now included as part of the US 101 Widening (Monterey to SR 129) and SR 25 Interchange Improvement Project.

#### **US 101/Bailey Road Interchange project - \$25,608**

In March 2000, the VTA Board approved \$4.5 million in LPR funds for the US 101/Bailey Road Interchange project. This project has now been completed with approximately \$25,608 remaining. Staff recommends returning the unused funds from this project to the LPR.

#### **South County Circulation Study - \$500,000**

In March 2005, the VTA Board approved \$500,000 in LPR funds for the South County Circulation Study. The study was ultimately funded using CMP budget assigned to corridor studies. Staff recommends returning the \$500,000 programmed to the LPR.

#### **Corridor Studies - \$8,753**

In March 2002, the VTA Board approved \$1,400,000 in LPR funds for Highway Corridor Studies that included SR 85, SR 237 and US 101 corridors. These studies are now completed with approximately \$8,753 remaining. Staff recommends returning the leftover funds from these studies to the LPR.

#### **Gateway Studies - \$313,996**

In March 2000, the VTA Board approved \$1,850,000 in LPR funds for the Highway Gateway Studies that included I-680/880 Cross Connector Study, Southern Gateway Study and Peninsula Gateway Study. These studies are now completed with approximately \$313,996 remaining. Staff recommends returning the unused funds from these studies to the LPR.

#### **SR 85/US 101 North Landscaping - \$500,000**

In December 2004, the VTA Board approved \$2,654,000 in LPR funds for the SR85/US101 North Landscaping project. Landscaping construction is substantially complete and the project is in the plant establishment phase with approximately \$500,000 remaining. Staff recommends returning the unused funds from this project to the LPR.

### I-880 Widening Landscaping - \$165,000

In December 2004, the VTA Board approved \$1,178,000 in LPR funds for the I-880 Widening Landscaping project. Landscaping construction is substantially complete and the project is in the plant establishment phase with approximately \$165,000 remaining. Staff recommends returning the unused funds from this project to the LPR.

### **New Project Programming:**

#### **Santa Clara County Almaden Expressway Improvements - \$1,500,000**

In 2004, the County of Santa Clara received a federal earmark for approximately \$1,250,000 for use on Measure B funded State Route 152 project. Since the Measure B project was not eligible for federal funds, local funds were used to complete the project.

In 2005, Caltrans approached VTA with a request for additional funds for the SR 152 truck-climbing lane project. With concurrence from the County, the federal funds were assigned to the Caltrans project with the understanding that VTA would assist the county with completing the funding for the Almaden Expressway Improvements project.

The County has requested VTA to provide \$1,500,000 to complete the Almaden Expressway Improvement project. Because of the delay in completing the funding for the project, VTA staff recommends programming \$1,500,000 in LPR funds to this project to make up for cost increases incurred during the delay. The right-of-way acquisition phase of this project is scheduled to begin by the end of 2007 with construction beginning in early 2008.

#### **SR 85/El Camino Real/SR 237/Middlefield Road Improvements in the City of Mountain View - \$250,000**

VTA and the City of Mountain View partnered to prepare a Project Study Report scoping the potential improvements in the area of SR 237 and SR 85. The project is proposed to include reconfiguration of the State Route 237/State Route 85 interchange through addition of new merging lanes, freeway to freeway ramps, addition of auxiliary lanes on SR 85 in both northbound and southbound directions, and conversion of the existing full cloverleaf interchange to a partial cloverleaf at State Route 85 and El Camino Real (ECR). For the SR 237/Middlefield interchange, a new loop on-ramp from westbound Middlefield Road to westbound SR 237 is being studied, as well as reconfiguration of Ferguson Drive to accommodate the new on-ramp.

In January 2006, the VTA Board allocated this regional project \$250,000 in LPR funds for the VTA share of the project. The City of Mountain View also contributed \$250,000 towards this project. Due to the complexity of the El Camino Real/85/237/Middlefield Interchange Improvements and the potential impacts to the local streets, roads, trails and bicycle paths the project study needs additional traffic and engineering work in order to complete the Project Study Report. In order to accomplish this, staff recommends programming an additional \$250,000 in LPR funds to this project. With this addition, the total LPR VTA commitment for this project will be \$500,000.

## **SR 156 and Barnheisel Road Improvements - \$400,000**

During the development of the SR 152/156 Interchange Project, a need was identified to improve the SR 156/Barnheisel Road intersection to alleviate safety concerns for local traffic. In partnership with Caltrans District 4, Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG) and VTA, Caltrans District 5 took the lead in designing the improvements. This project, on the Santa Clara- San Benito County line, involves left turn channelization and acceleration lanes in order for vehicles to more safely enter and exit Barnheisel Road from SR 156. The total cost of this improvement is approximately \$1,800,000. Caltrans is the project lead and will provide \$1,000,000 with VTA and SBCOG each providing \$400,000 to make up the balance of the \$800,000 needed for construction of the project.

## **SR 87 North and South Projects - \$665,000**

Staff recommends reallocating the savings from landscaping phases of I-880 and Route 85/101 North Projects, described earlier in this memorandum, to the Route 87 Projects to be used for landscaping and remaining closeout costs of the project. Staff also recommends allowing flexibility of the remaining LPR funds previously approved to be utilized as necessary for landscaping, staff support, and civil construction contract costs.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

The VTA Board may choose not to program funds to the recommended new projects or may request modified programming alternatives.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

VTA Board action will make an additional \$2,815,000 in LPR funds available to the recommended projects. Two projects (Route 237/85 El Camino Study and SR 87 Projects) are to be managed by VTA and the appropriation and budget for the action is included in the VTA Highway Program- Capital Budget. The other project funding is allocated to projects to be managed by outside agencies and fund contribution agreements will be executed to administer the funds.

Also, \$1,913,357 in previously allocated but unspent funds will be returned to LPR. Following approval of all of the recommended actions included in this memorandum, approximately \$8 million would be available in the LPR fund.

No funding from the VTA Transit Enterprise Fund will be used for this work.

Prepared by: Amin Surani, Principal Transportation Planner

Reviewed by: Marcella Rensi, Manager, Programming & Grants