

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 7, 2013

Reference No.: 2.2b. (2)  
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS  
Executive Director

## **Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Reevaluation – Interstate 5 HOT Lane Project**

### **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, provide comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Reevaluation (DEIR) prepared for the Interstate 5 HOT Lane Project in Los Angeles County?

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission make no comments relative to the alternatives or environmental impacts addressed in the DEIR. However, staff recommends that a letter be sent to the Department that states the following:

- The Commission has no comments with respect to the project purpose and need, the alternatives to be studied, the impacts to be evaluated, and the evaluation methods used.
- The Commission recommends that the Department and its partners identify and secure the necessary funding to complete the project.
- If in the future, funds or other actions under the purview of the Commission are anticipated, upon completion of the final environmental document, notification should be provided to the Commission as a Responsible Agency.
- Since tolling is under consideration, the Commission encourages Caltrans and its partners to ensure early communication and coordination with the Commission in the event it is anticipated that the Commission will be requested to approve the project for delivery through either a design-build or public private partnership procurement consistent with the provisions of Senate Bill 4 (SBX2 4, Statutes of 2009), or for construction approval to allow for financing approval by the California Transportation Financing Authority as provided for in Assembly Bill 798 (AB 798, Statutes of 2009).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department is the designated CEQA Lead Agency responsible for the environmental review of the project. For project summary information, please see the Department's memorandum included as agenda item 2.2b (2).

M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 7, 2013

Reference No.: 2.2b.(2)  
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Bruce April  
Acting Division Chief  
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at the May Commission meeting on the following Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR):

**ISSUE:**

**07-LA-05, PM R45.4/R59.0**

This project in Los Angeles County will construct high occupancy toll lanes on Interstate 5 from State Route 14 to Parker Road in the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated Los Angeles County. The project was originally proposed to construct high occupancy vehicle lanes. A Final Environmental Impact Report was approved for the project in September of 2009. The Department and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority are now proposing to implement high occupancy toll lanes instead of the previously proposed high occupancy vehicle lanes on this 13.5-mile portion of Interstate 5. This change to the project resulted in the preparation of a DSEIR.

The decision to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report was made due to changes to the original project that may have resulted in additional environmental impacts. The following resources were analyzed for potential additional impacts:

- Traffic
- Air Quality
- Noise

The analysis resulted in no additional impacts associated with the project changes. Mitigation and avoidance measures identified in the original Final Environmental Impact Report will remain the same.

Attachment

