

ACTION ITEM

AC TRANSIT DISTRICT
Board of Directors
Executive Summary

GM Memo No. 03-147 a

Meeting Date: May 15, 2003

Committees:

Executive Committee
External Affairs Committee
Operations Committee

Finance Committee
Paratransit Committee
Planning Committee

Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Berkeley/Oakland/San Leandro Bus Rapid Transit Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only Briefing Item Recommended Motion

The Planning Committee recommended that the Board approve the staff proposal shown on page 3, regarding the Policy Steering Committee and Executive Technical Advisory Committee for now, evaluate how it works, and make changes later, if necessary.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Background/Discussion:

This memo provides a brief description of the following activities related to the study and preparation of the Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Berkeley/Oakland/San Leandro corridor project.

BOARD ACTION: **Approved as Recommended** [] **Other** []
 Approved with Modification(s) []

[To be filled in by District Secretary after Board/Committee Meeting]

The above order was passed and adopted on _____, 2003.

Rose Martinez, District Secretary
By _____

- Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Administrative Milestones
- Public Scoping Sessions and Other Presentations
- Technical Work
- Next steps/Issues

Notice of Intent (NOI)

Prior to the commencement of detailed environmental work on the project, the District must issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and/or a Notice of Preparation (NOP) required by the California Environmental Quality ACT (CEQA). This NOI/NOP opens the outreach and public involvement for the environmental work.

There has been some delay to the issuance of the NOI, primarily due to consultation with our federal agencies. However, the District was able to schedule scoping meetings quickly to make up for the minor delay.

While scoping meetings are a legal requirement in the CEQA and NEPA process, they also are intended to identify any issues that the public or public agencies would like considered in the study early in the environmental process. They will provide an overview of the project that we are studying, and serve as the kick-off for a public outreach process that is designed to allow for early and meaningful public engagement throughout the study.

The following provides a schedule of the **Administrative Milestones** associated with the environmental work as well as a tentative schedule of the **Scoping Sessions**.

Administrative Milestones:

- Draft Notice of Intent (NOI) Submitted to FTA April 10
- Release of NOI Scheduled for April 30
- NOI appears in Federal Register May 16

Scoping Sessions (Tentative dates, times and locations):

- **San Leandro**
Wednesday May 28, 6:30 PM
City Hall South Hearing Room
- **East Oakland**
Monday June 2, 6:30 PM
Allen Temple 8501 International Boulevard
- **Berkeley**
Wednesday June 4, 6:30 PM
North Berkeley Senior Center (Hearst & MLK)
- **North Oakland & Downtown**
Thursday June 5, 3:30-5:30 PM Agency Staff; 6:30 PM

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City Hall Hearing Room 3

Other Presentations:

- Oakland Chamber of Commerce
Thursday May 8, 8:30 AM (COC Offices)
- Oakland Pedestrian Safety Committee
Wednesday May 21, 1:00 PM Banishing Bureaucracy Room Oakland City Hall
- San Leandro South Area Advisory Committee
Wednesday May 21, South Hearing Room San Leandro City Hall
- Berkeley/Oakland/San Leandro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
April 22, District General Office

Technical Work:

The consultant contract was signed in February and work on the project has begun. Detailed aerial photos of the corridor were taken in March. These photos will allow a more refined view of the corridors necessary for the identification of impacts and for preliminary design. Traffic Data Collection has begun and is scheduled to be completed by May 13.

Next Steps/Issues:

Staff has scheduled the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for April 22. However, the Policy Steering Committee (PSC) has not yet been scheduled in anticipation of the selection of City of Oakland representatives. Staff is reviewing options for the role and scope of the Policy Steering Committee that would accommodate the potential that the City of Oakland may not elect to participate frequently at the policy level.

One option that staff is considering is to have PSC meetings only when high-level policy decisions are needed, potentially only three or four times during the study process. The District would then convene an Executive Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC) that would be comprised of high level executive staff within the cities and affected agencies.

The ETAC would meet to discuss strategic issues that may be sensitive to the cities and agencies, but that do not necessarily require participation by the elected officials. The ETAC member's responsibility would be to directly work with the PSC member to ensure that they are informed of the progress of the study.

The TAC would continue to meet to review technical documents and provide technical guidance throughout the process.

Staff will be presenting the Board with a recommendation after input from the Planning Committee and the Berkeley/Oakland/San Leandro Bus Rapid Transit subcommittee.

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Prior Relevant Board Actions/Policies:

GM Memo No. 03-015: Changes to the Policy Steering Committee

Gm Memo No. 03-079: Update on BRT Project Schedule and Near Term Improvements

Attachments: **None**

Approved by: **Kathleen Kelly, Deputy General Manager**

Prepared by: **Tina Spencer, Manager of Long Range Planning**
 Jim Cunradi, Senior Planner

Date Prepared: **April 16, 2003**