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RIVERSIDE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

December 16, 2008

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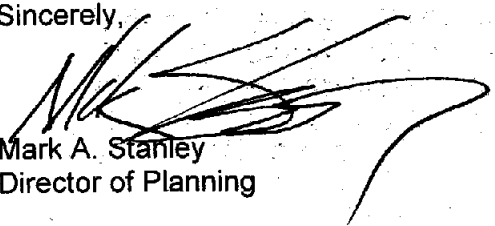
SUBJECT: RTA Comments on Draft EIR for the Mid-County Parkway

Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) makes the following comments on the Mid-County Parkway:

- RTA is fully supportive of the concept of building this highway but makes no recommendation at this time favoring a particular Alternative Route. The transit agency will endeavor to use whatever routing is ultimately chosen by RCTC as a corridor for bus transit service.
- However, there is the opportunity for Chapter 3.6, on Traffic and Transportation to be expanded to include an inventory and map of existing and proposed RTA bus lines and ridership data pertinent to the Mid-County Parkway corridor. We recommend that the Draft EIR discuss in more detail how the Mid-County Parkway (MCP) would accommodate public transit service, especially express bus service as planned for in the 2008 Transit Vision, RTA's COA Strategic Plan and other long range planning documents. With RTA's assistance, the EIR could potentially identify and map existing and future bus lines and potential bus transit nodes along the alternative routes.
- We will work with the project engineers to integrate within the MCP right-of-way several transit nodes with distinct bus stops featuring pedestrian-friendly characteristics that tie-in to nearby development, minimize bus stop dwell times, and improve operational convenience, safety and overall connectivity with the RTA system and to Metrolink stations, as feasible.
- We recommend that the EIR note that MCP routes along steep grades would negatively impact bus travel speed.
- Although the Community Impacts section mentions the elderly and disabled as "transit dependent", there is no further discussion on how this demographic could be provided increased mobility opportunities by means of transit service along the MCP. We recommend the EIR be expanded to explore more fully the impacts on the transit dependent.

RTA staff welcomes further discussion with RCTC and its consultants regarding the aforementioned topics in this letter. If you need further information please contact myself or Michael McCoy, Communications Planner at (951) 565-5164 or online at mmccoy@riversidetransit.com.

Sincerely,


Mark A. Stanley
Director of Planning