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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Executive Director

DATE: November 30, 2005

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2006 Tri-County Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council approve the enclosed 2006 Tri-County Regional Transportation Improvement Program and direct staff to submit it to the CTC for adoption in the 2006 STIP.

BACKGROUND

Every two years, the CCOG submits a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for adoption and funding. RTIPs are prepared statewide by the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, based on local prioritization of projects and the amount of funding estimated to be available in the next State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The fund estimate for the STIP this year is modest due to cash flow and State budget problems. The RTIP is due at the CTC January 30, 2006.

DISCUSSION

Staff has worked closely with CCOG Project Manager, Scott Maas and CTC staff to assemble the attached RTIP for submittal to the CTC. The 2006 RTIP includes no new STIP projects. CTC staff requested that all regional agencies take their existing program of projects and “respread” the project components over future years in order to accommodate the State’s shortfall in cash. For Calaveras projects, the most significant impact of this cash flow shortage has been on the Angels Camp Bypass. To date, this project has moved out about two years from its original schedule. Caltrans has proposed another two-year delay because of a shortfall of IIP funds until 2009. According to Scott Maas, CCOG Project Manager, the project is on schedule for delivery (ready to go out to bid) in July 2006.

PPM

Also included in the RTIP are Planning Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds over the next four years. Up to 5% of a county’s share of STIP funds may be programmed for PPM activities. PPM may be used for updating the Regional Transportation Plan and to assist the CCOG in expediting STIP projects.

TE FUNDS

Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds are now programmed under each county's RTIP. This is a new policy instituted by the CTC in 2003. On page (TBD), the Tri-Counties TE fund programming and distribution is shown. Staff is recommending that the County's target share of TE funds be reserved for allocation in FY 2006-07. This allows time for preparation of project proposals, project selection and time for project sponsors to assemble a team of environmental and design consultants or staff to execute the project. Note that TE funds are federal, and thus necessitate completion of a NEPA environmental document – a task not to be taken lightly and one which demands project sponsors be fully prepared and knowledgeable regarding federal environmental requirements. TE funds are subject to STIP guidelines which include “use it or lose it” requirements, meaning that once an allocation is made, funds must be obligated within three years. A selection committee has met twice, and projects are currently being solicited until March 31, 2006.

CONCLUSION

The attached RTIP provides most of the essential information required by the CTC. Some additional sections were not ready at mail out time, and will be sent to Council Members prior to December 7th. Staff recommends approval of the draft 2006 RTIP.