
AC TRANSIT DISTRICT**Board of Directors**

Executive Summary

GM Memo No. 09-251

Meeting Date: October 28, 2009

Committees:Planning Committee External Affairs Committee Rider Complaint Committee **Board of Directors** Finance and Audit Committee Operations Committee Paratransit Committee **Financing Corporation**

SUBJECT: Confirm Board Commitment to Partially Fund Traffic Signal on Mission Boulevard at Gurdwara Road**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Information Only Briefing Item Recommended Motion**Consider approving expenditure to partially fund traffic signal on Mission Boulevard at Gurdwara Road**

Fiscal Impact:

Approximately \$67 Thousand Dollars

Background/Discussion:

The Board has received information on this subject on three different occasions. The most recent memo, in May 2009 (GM Memo 09-113), underscored the importance of the installation of a traffic signal on Mission Boulevard at Gurdwara Road as the long term solution to the issue of Line 99 service in the vicinity of the Sikh Temple and the California Terrace neighborhood. A traffic signal would allow for the installation of a northbound bus stop, and both the California Terrace neighborhood and the Sikh Temple would receive service via Mission Boulevard, without requiring the line to be deviated directly into the neighborhood. The Board was advised that with the support of Senator Ellen Corbett's office, Caltrans had committed to fund 2/3 of the cost of the traffic signal project at Mission Boulevard/Gurdwara Road, conditioned upon the difference being made up by some combination of local support.

In October 2008 (GM Memo 08-248), the Board was advised that AC Transit had suggested a 3-way split between the District, the City of Fremont, and the Sikh Temple, to make up the remaining 1/3 cost for the installation of the traffic signal. In an attempt to fund this shortfall, AC Transit applied for a Measure B Bicycle & Pedestrian grant to cover the shortfall, but the application was unsuccessful.

Earlier in 2008 (January, GM Memo 08-007(a)), the Board directed staff to send letters of recommendation to Senator Ellen Corbett and Assemblymember Alberto Torrico in support of signal construction at Mission and Gurdwara. Additionally, the Board directed that the South County Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical

Advisory Committee (TAC) be encouraged to support the use of Special District 2 funds for the traffic signal. It should be noted that at the TAC level, the City of Newark has consistently opposed the use of District 2 funds to pay for a share of the traffic signal costs.

Recently, AC Transit was provided with a letter from the Supreme Council of the Fremont Gurdwara (Attachment), confirming that the Sikh Temple was committed to contributing fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) towards the cost of the installation of a traffic signal on Mission Boulevard at Gurdwara Road.

Upon receiving this update, staff from the City of Fremont sent confirming correspondence to the Supreme Council of the Fremont Gurdwara, and also informed Caltrans of the Gurdwara's commitment, and requested information from that agency on next steps in the process.

Caltrans responded that the next step would be to secure final funding, which was characterized as challenging given the current economic climate, notwithstanding all of the efforts of Senator Corbett's office. Caltrans also referenced the need for a cooperative agreement, in order to accept funds from a local agency. The details of such an agreement, as well as the schedule for the project, are outstanding action items.

Per the most recent correspondence from Caltrans, dated October 19, 2009, tentative delivery of the traffic signal is anticipated by the end of 2011, allowing time to execute a three-way cooperative agreement, and also to complete the plans, specifications and cost estimate. Caltrans has indicated that the schedule is being discussed internally, with a hope to deliver the project in advance of 2011. Other action items include confirmation from the City of Fremont and AC Transit of the commitment to split the remaining one-third balance of the cost of the traffic signal, after Caltrans' two-thirds contribution.

Once the co-op agreement details have been worked out with Caltrans, the Fremont City Council will be asked to reconfirm financial commitment to the traffic signal project. A similar commitment will be asked of the AC Transit Board.

Accordingly, the next steps in the process to move forward with the installation of the traffic signal include:

- City of Fremont staff to confirm commitment from City Council regarding City's share of traffic signal cost
- AC Transit staff to confirm commitment from District Board regarding AC Transit's share of traffic signal cost
- Schedule TAC and PAC meetings to address cost-sharing concerns
- Finalize securement of funds from Caltrans
- Enter into cooperative agreements between Caltrans and the City of Fremont, the Sikh Temple, and AC Transit

The Board will be apprised of the progress of this project, up to and including installation of the traffic signal on Mission Boulevard at Gurdwara Road.

Prior Relevant Board Actions/Policies:

GM Memo 08-007 (a): Update on Line 99 in Fremont
GM Memo 08-248: Report on the Status of Line 99 Issues and Proposed Next Steps,
October 28, 2008
GM Memo 09-113: Update on Line 99 in Fremont, May 27, 2009

Attachments:

Attachment: Letter of Commitment from Gurdwara Sahib Fremont

Approved by: Rick Fernandez, General Manager

Prepared by: Nancy Skowbo, Deputy GM, Service Development

Date Prepared: October 15, 2009

Date: September 14, 2009

To: Ms. Nancy Skowbo
Deputy GM, Service Department
AC Transit

Mr. Jim Pierson
Transportation and Operations Director
City of Fremont

Dear Ms. Skowbo and Mr. Pierson,

Following up on our earlier conversations regarding the proposed traffic signal at Mission Boulevard and Gurdwara Road, Gurdwara management hereby confirms that we remain committed to contributing our share of the local funds that you said will be needed to bring this project to completion along with the City of Fremont. in case you are not able to obtain a grant that you were pursuing. This is a project that will benefit every one living or going through that area. As you noted in an earlier letter, the traffic on Mission Boulevard is significant enough to merit a traffic signal regardless of any public transit issues.

There are compelling safety and public convenience and necessity reasons for this project. We appreciate your continuing efforts to bring this project to fruition. We will do our part and collect the estimated \$50, 000 or so that you said you will need if the grant did not come through. Please keep us apprised of any significant developments related to this project.

With best regards

Gurbux Kahlon
Chairperson, Supreme Council
Gurdwara Sahib Fremont
300 Gurdwara Road
Fremont, Ca 94536

CC: Members, Fremont Gurdwara Supreme Council
Mr. Harjot Singh Khalsa, President Fremont Gurdwara