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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

January 24, 2005

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: COUNTY TRANSPORTATION VISION

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Review, consider and adopt a County Transportation Vision for mobility into the 21st century that provides increasing opportunities for bicycle, transit, and rail, and reduces reliance on single occupancy cars.
- 2) If adopted, direct staff to incorporate the County Transportation Vision into the County General Plan as part of the General Plan Update or through Amendment, as appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT/MANDATE:

Mandatory: No

Project Cost: Costs associated with staff time.

DISCUSSION:

On November 15, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a General Plan Update that included amendments to the Goals and Policies for Transportation/Circulation as part of the Public Facilities and Services Chapter of the General Plan. At that time staff was directed to return with further information, analysis and options on amendments to incorporate language to enhance both transit and rail service. Additionally, some minor language was added to a goal encouraging the use of bicycling and ridesharing.

The need to provide greater options for transportation in the future is furthered by the lack of funds for major road projects to accommodate more cars. For example, according to VCTC, the interchange of the 101 and 23 is planned for construction in 2048.

Having the Board of Supervisors adopt a Transportation Vision that emphasizes alternative transportation modes and include that vision in the Goals of the County's General Plan will help move the County on a path towards greater mobility, less congestion, and reduced dependency on single occupancy vehicles.

In accordance with the direction provided on November 15, 2005 to include language to enhance transit and rail service (Goals 4.2.1-5 and 4.2.1-8), it is recommended that the following be considered for approval for the County's Transportation Vision and incorporated into the General Plan Goals:

Transit Vision

- Enhance transit service
- Increase ridership
- Encourage a county-wide, seamless system

Rail Vision

- Increase rail connectivity with transit, feeder lines, and between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties

Providing the more pro-active goal to enhance/increase rail and transit service, beyond the present ones that call for continuing as we have been, will help lay the groundwork for future measures to increase existing service.

Bicycle travel is a part of a comprehensive vision for increasing options for commuters who have relatively short distances to travel to work, school, shopping, etc. Bicycle lanes and increased facilities can provide greater accessibility for bicyclists and so increase options to driving a car. The General Plan encourages bicycle transportation as a Goal in concert with ridesharing (4.2.1-7) as a way to reduce employee car commute trips. Expanding on this Goal for the Transportation Vision, it is recommended that the following bicycle vision be considered for approval for the County's Transportation Vision and incorporated into the General Plan Goals:

Bicycle Vision

- Establish a system of bicycle lanes/trails linking all county cities
- Establish bicycle trail connections to CSUCI
- Establish adequate bicycle lanes on well-used bicycle routes
- Provide adequate bicycle carrying capacity on public transit vehicles
- Encourage provision of adequate bicycle racks and lockers

The growing congestion problems on County roads and highways cannot be solved solely by building our way out of it by adding and widening roads, even if there were adequate funds to do so. Having a comprehensive transportation vision and taking a pro-active role in encouraging alternative transportation modes in our County's General Plan Goals will help Ventura County be a leader in transportation in the future.

Cordially,



Linda Parks
Supervisor, District 2



Steve Bennett
Supervisor, District 1