County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
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June 21, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT BACK ON IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR UPGRADING ALL SIGNAGE DESIGNED TO INCREASE SAFETY AWARENESS ON STATE ROUTE 138

On December 20, 2011, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a five-signature letter to send to the Caltrans Director and Caltrans District 7 Director requesting that Caltrans formally review the potential of, and provide an implementation plan for upgrading all signage designed to increase safety awareness on State Route 138 between Interstate 5 and the San Bernardino County line; send a copy of this letter to the Governor, Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing, the Los Angeles County Delegation to the State Legislature, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors; and request Caltrans to conduct a review of safety measures along this corridor to determine if there are additional technological measures that could be implemented to improve safety for all drivers, and report to the Board with a list of such measures including costs, benefits and timelines for implementation. The five-signature letter was sent to Caltrans on January 6, 2012.

On May 23, 2012, Caltrans responded to the Board's letter (attached) and indicated that the signage review of State Route 138 between Interstate 5 and the San Bernardino County line had been completed and that: 1) there are approximately 300 roadside and overhead signs which will be replaced over the next two years; and 2) a flashing beacon will be installed with a "Signal Ahead" warning sign on westbound State Route 138 approaching 87th Street East (no implementation timeline provided). In addition, Caltrans provided a list of additional safety improvement projects, including three

recently completed projects; three short-term improvement projects, which will be completed by July 2012; one intermediate-term project, which will be completed in 2017; and several potential long-term improvement projects, which are currently under consideration. Specific project descriptions are included in the attached Caltrans response.

With respect to the Board's request to determine if there are additional technological measures that could be implemented to improve safety for all drivers, Caltrans only indicated that the use of solar power is an option as they strive to be a "greener" agency, but that they continue to experience a high degree of theft of solar-powered equipment.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Rita Robinson at (213) 893-2477, or via email at rrobinson@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:RLR
RG:AB:kd

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

U:CHRONO 2012\Budget\Caltrans – State Route 138 (4)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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May 23, 2012

The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky
Chairman, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Yaroslavsky:

This is a follow-up to our letter dated February 7, 2012, regarding the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) request, that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) consider upgrading signage to increase motorists' safety on State Route 138 (SR-138) between Interstate Route 5 (I-5) and the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County line. In addition, the Board requested that Caltrans conduct a review to determine if there are technological measures that could be implemented to improve traffic safety along this corridor and to provide the Board with a list of such measures including costs, benefits, and timelines for implementation.

We have recently completed our investigation; outlined below is a summary of our recommendations:

REVIEW OF SIGNAGE

Daytime and nighttime field reviews were conducted to determine the condition of the regulatory, warning, and guide signs. We recommend that approximately 300 roadside and overhead signs be replaced with an estimated total cost of $250,000. The signs will be replaced in phases, over the next two years, depending on available maintenance resources.

A flashing beacon will be installed with a "Signal Ahead" warning sign on westbound SR-138 approaching the proposed new traffic signal at 87th Street East. Other locations are also being studied, for possible use of flashing beacons. The use of solar power is always an option as we strive to be a "greener" agency; however, we continue to experience high degree of theft of solar-powered equipment.

SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

Additional short-term improvements on SR-138:

- 245th Street West: Install reflective markers.
- 40th Street East: Add chevron pavement markings to the channelizing island on northbound 40th Street East.
- Various segments between Avenue T and 190th Street East: Renew centerlines, lane lines, and edge lines

These improvements are expected to be completed by July 2012.

INTERMEDIATE-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

A safety project under design will widen the median and install 8-foot shoulders between Jct. SR-18 and the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County line. This will improve the safety of the road by decreasing cross-over and run-off accidents.

The completion of this project is anticipated in 2017.

POTENTIAL LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

- Consider installing a median rumble strip on Lancaster Road-Avenue D (SR-138) from Gorman Post Road, east of I-5, to approximately 180th Street West. This will alert motorists when they cross over the centerline.
- As traffic volumes increase between I-5 and SR-14, consider paving 8-foot shoulders.
- As traffic volumes increase between SR-18 and the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County line, consider widening to four lanes, with 12-foot paved median and 8-foot paved shoulders.
- Consider installing a roundabout at the intersection of SR-138 and SR-18. Estimated cost is $3 million.
- As volumes increase, consider reconstructing the SR-14 interchange at Palmdale Boulevard to widen the off-ramps and increase capacity.
- Consider upgrading the traffic signals interconnect system between SR-14 and Avenue T to optimize signal timing in Palmdale. Estimated cost $3.3 million.

These potential improvements are under consideration and no delivery timelines have been established.

RECENTLY COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS

- A $4.4 million project completed in January 2012 resurfaced the pavement from Interstate 5 to 230th Street West, and slurry seal of the pavement, from 180th Street West to State Route 14.

- A $1.1 million project completed in February 2012 between SR-18 and the San Bernardino County line resurfaced the pavement, installed median rumble strips, and channelizers on the centerline stripe.

We are pleased to work together with the County of Los Angeles in continuous efforts to improve the safety of SR-138. Should you have any questions, please contact Diana Gomez, Deputy District Director, Operations, at (213) 897-0362.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL MILES
District Director

c: Michael D. Antonovich, Supervisor, Fifth District
Traci Stevens, Acting Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing
Each Member, Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Board of Directors
Rita Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, LA County Chief Executive Office

bc: DGomez, Deputy District Director-Operations
DFreeman, Deputy District Director-Maintenance
JGonzales, Region Manager, Maintenance-Special Crews
SHaddadeen, Chief, Traffic Investigations
TSchriber, Headquarters Traffic Liaison, c/o Design "C"
SNovotny, Chief, Project Management-North
SAlameddine, Chief, Planning, Environmental Engineering and Corridor Studies
PSpeakman, Traffic Investigations

RECEIVED Olga
BY
DATE 6-5-12