

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

December 5, 2005

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager
RE: Federal Legislation Platform

Revised Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council add to the legislative priorities the Route 210 Soundwalls.

Background

At the November 22, 2005 meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee, staff presented the 2006 Federal Legislative Platform. As part of the discussion, it was noted that the Route 210 Soundwalls had been deleted in 2006 as a priority. Staff, working with our Federal Lobbyist, removed the soundwalls from the list because Congress does not typically fund highway earmarks in the annual transportation appropriations bill, but rather it funds large projects such as soundwalls in the five-year transportation authorization bill. Since Congress had just passed the SAFETEA-LU authorization bill this year that included \$1.44 million for Pasadena soundwalls, it seemed unlikely that we would have success with an annual highway earmark. However, the Legislative Policy Committee recommended that the City continue to keep soundwalls as a priority.

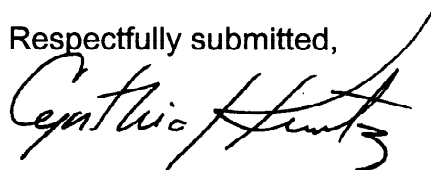
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia J. Kurtz".

CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

FISCAL IMPACT

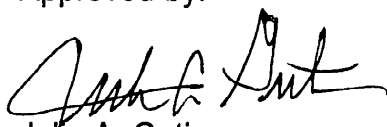
Funds for the legislative advocate are included in the City Council operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Approved by:



Julie A. Gutierrez
Assistant City Manager

CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

2006 Federal Priorities – Part I

Pasadena Intelligent Transportation Systems

The City of Pasadena intends to implement a comprehensive Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program to manage traffic congestion and enhance transit services throughout the region. Among the projects planned for the second phase of the City program is the deployment of a Bus Priority System (BPS) for the City's ARTS Bus System. The BPS will improve transit reliability and as a result make the ARTS buses an even more attractive transportation option for Pasadena residents. This project will also include the installation of a Transit Surveillance and Management System to monitor fixed-route bus performance and headways.

Other components of this \$8.5 million program include upgrades to the City's Transportation Management Center, installation of traffic signal communications infrastructure along all arterial streets, transit vehicle arrival information and signal prioritization for buses, and monitor of parking, transit and overall traffic operations in the City. In addition to Federal funding, the City will seek assistance for the implementation of the second phase through the local Transportation Impact Fee on New Development and from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

- ***Federal Request: \$1.4 million from FY 2007 Department of Transportation appropriations, Bus and Bus facilities account or Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) account.***

Reservoir Rehabilitation Program

In 2005 the City completed a detailed Seismic Structural Analysis (SSA) of its most critical reservoir facilities, which revealed that they are vulnerable to significant seismic damage from a major earthquake occurring on the Sierra Madre Fault system. As a result, the City is in the process of undertaking a long-term reservoir rehabilitation program to safeguard the City's drinking water from seismic events. The project is expected to cost up to \$15 million over the next 10 to 15 years and it is expected to strengthen 12 reservoirs. The request would provide for the design phase of the project with the local matching funds provided through the City's water enterprise funds and potentially grants and loans from the State of California.

- ***Federal Request: \$750,000 in planning and design funds from FY 2007 Environmental Protection Agency appropriations through the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Program.***

Water System Improvement Program

The Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) Department provides water to virtually all residents within the City of Pasadena, and as a result, the integrity of the water delivery system is essential to providing safe and efficient levels of service. Currently, the vast

majority of the PWP facilities were installed over 70 years ago, with many water valves over 90 years old. Given that the useful life of a cast-iron pipeline is 50 to 70 years old, these facilities are clearly beyond their design life and are in need of replacement. The City estimates it will cost between \$20 million and \$30 million per year over the next several years to protect and enhance its water delivery system and it has currently budgeted between \$9 and \$11 million for that task. Over the last two years, customers have been subject to rate increases of up to 35 percent to pay for the costs of these upgrades.

Planning, design and construction of water infrastructure projects would include a distribution system, a storage booster station, pipeline rehabilitation and supervisory control, data acquisition system upgrades, and the design and construction of a Reclaimed Water Transmission and Distribution system.

- ***Federal Request: \$15 million authorization from the Corps of Engineers Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to be considered by Congress.***

Interoperable Communications

One of the City's most significant public safety challenges is the ability of our public safety officers to communicate across jurisdictional and agency boundaries. Response to disasters and other events have become regional by nature and communications are extremely important for the safety of personnel and those they are serving. Currently, the City of Glendale is spearheading a comprehensive communications program to allow for seamless communications with at least seven neighboring communities, including Pasadena. In order to be fully operational with this new system, the City needs to purchase digital portable radios for each officer to use. The Pasadena Police Department estimates that it will need to purchase at least 100 of these radios.

- ***Federal Request: \$1 million from FY 2007 Department of Justice appropriations through the Byrne discretionary program or Law Enforcement Technology program.***

Robinson Park Rehabilitation and Renovation

The City of Pasadena is seeking assistance with the implementation of a Master Plan that proposes significant modifications to the existing Robinson Park in Northwest Pasadena. The Plan concludes that the seven acre park, which serves over 400 residents of nearby low and moderate income neighborhoods each day, no longer meets the needs of the community in its current state. Activities at Robinson Park include piano and computer classes, after school clubs, and drill teams, as well as sports leagues, weight room activities, exercise programs, and martial arts programs.

The centerpiece of the Master Plan is to utilize a former mortuary building as a new center to replace undersized and inadequate existing facilities. In addition improving current programs at Robinson Park, the upgraded facilities will expand the recreational

and developmental opportunities at the Park with additions such as a youth center and computer lab. The Master Plan also proposes significant improvements to existing sports fields and a picnic area in the park. The total cost of the rehabilitation and renovation of Robinson Park is approximately \$19.5 million and the City is currently experiencing a shortfall in Phase I of the project. This phase includes the administrative building, with space for community meetings and educational programs and health initiatives.

In addition to promoting positive recreational activities in a densely populated community with limited green space and community facilities, the new Robinson Park facility will bring significant educational improvements to this community. The new facility would allow significant expansion of such programs as the BRITE after school educational program, which has a proven success record in improving school performance and attendance among local elementary school-age children. Such facilities as a computer lab, nature and science multipurpose room, and performing arts space will address the gap in the local availability of technology, science and arts programs.

Linking the recreational and educational facilities in a single site allows better linkage of programs addressing both needs, such as after school basketball leagues where youth not only shoot baskets but learn math skills by calculating field goal percentages in the adjacent learning lab. Summer day camp programs can integrate academics into the recreation program, promoting learning and positive behavior beyond the traditional classroom.

- ***Federal Request: \$1.0 million from FY 2007 Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriations through the Economic Development Initiative (EDI).***

CITY OF PASADENA

2006 Federal Priorities Part II

Regional Priorities

➤ ***Extension of the Gold Line East of Pasadena***

The City of Pasadena strongly supports Phase II of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line and urges Congress to provide sufficient funds through the annual appropriations process to ensure that the project is completed in a timely matter. The second phase of the Gold Line is the single-most important transportation project in the region to relieve traffic congestion and provide a greater modal choice for residents of the San Gabriel Valley. In addition to serving Pasadena residents wanting a transit alternative east of the City, Phase II of the Gold Line will alleviate current and future traffic congestion in East Pasadena that results from commuters accessing the parking structure at the current terminus of the line.

➤ ***Raymond Basin Water Reliability Program***

A collection of Southern California communities, including Pasadena, are involved in a long-term, comprehensive effort to enhance the area's water supply. Among those projects is a proposal to recharge the Raymond Basin, an aquifer whose levels are dropping between three and six feet per year, leaving 250,000 acre-feet of storage available. The water recharge will help to prevent migration of perchlorate from the Raymond Basin into the Northwest portion of the San Gabriel Basin and also allow water producers to use blending to meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards. One proposed project will fill this un-used portion of the Basin's storage capacity to help to ensure an uninterrupted water supply in the event of a disruption of Colorado River or State Water Project supplies. The City supports the efforts of the Raymond Basin Management Board to secure federal assistance for these projects through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and annual appropriations.

➤ ***Arroyo Seco Watershed***

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have initiated a Feasibility Study to examine potential water resources and environmental restoration plans for the Arroyo Seco Watershed. According to the Corps of Engineers, the San Gabriel Mountains are among the most erodable mountains in the world, releasing large amounts of sediment into the Arroyo each year and threatening highly diverse habitats of wildlife and vegetation as well as popular recreational areas. The Feasibility Study would evaluate various options for restoration of the Arroyo and ultimately recommend a final plan for authorization by Congress. The City supports sufficient funding in the FY 2007 Corps of Engineers budget to complete this important feasibility study.

CITY OF PASADENA
2006 Federal Priorities Part III

Legislative Priorities

➤ ***Perchlorate Contamination***

The City continues to work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on an equitable solution to the remediation of perchlorate contamination in the City drinking water wells, which is believed to have originated from rocket fuel engineered at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In addition to the significant costs of remediation (up to \$7 million per well), the City is also spending between \$500,000 and \$2 million annually to replace the water lost from the contaminated wells the City has closed. *The City requests that the congressional delegation urge NASA to work with the City on funding treatment facilities at the five Sunset Reservoir wells that the agency has not yet included in its remediation plan.*

➤ ***Telecommunications/Electronic Commerce***

As Congress considers changes to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, the City strongly opposes attempts, through Federal regulation as well as legislation, to erode traditional State and local authority over public rights-of-way, including the ability to impose fair and reasonable compensation for its use and maintenance. While the City encourages competition, telecommunication providers wishing to enter the market should be subject to the same local rules and regulations as incumbent providers, as well as those of other businesses. The City also opposes proposals for state or national franchises, as local franchises are best suited to encouraging universal service, ensuring educational and governmental programming, and protecting consumers. Also, local governments should have the ability to provide telecommunications services, should they choose to do so, under the same rules as current providers. Preservation of utility user taxes on telecommunications providers is critical to California cities. Finally, the City hopes that Congress will consider legislation that would allow states and local governments to collect sales taxes from remote sales such as online and catalog purchases.

➤ ***Homeland Security/Public Safety***

The presence of the Rose Bowl and NASA Jet Propulsion Lab presents the City of Pasadena with unique challenges in protecting its citizens from terrorist threats. Like many other communities, the City believes that there is a role for the federal government to assist localities; preferably with flexible, threat-based homeland security funding (block grants) that can be tailored to the specific needs of each community. The City has identified needs in areas such as response equipment, personal protective gear, pre-incident site preparation, training, and security that total approximately \$4 million. In addition, the City is working on issues regarding improved communications among public safety agencies on a regional basis and urges the federal government to provide such agencies with sufficiently protected bandwidth necessary to carry out such upgrades.

The City also urges Congress not to fund increases in Homeland Security programs at the expense of local law enforcement initiatives. Programs such as COPS and the Local Law

Enforcement Block Grant have been reduced or rolled into state block grants to the point of rendering them ineffective.

The City supports the continued funding of the Firefighter Assistance Grants program at by the U.S. Fire Administration at the Department of Homeland Security, which serves as a valuable tool for both homeland security and local fire safety purposes. In addition, the City urges Congress to fully fund the recently approved SAFER program to provide firefighter hiring grants.

➤ ***Eminent Domain***

The City urges Congress to proceed with caution in attempts to respond to the 2005 Supreme Court decision *Kelo v. New London*, which upheld the ability of local governments to use eminent domain for economic development purposes. Legislation to deny federal funds to communities that use condemnation for economic development purposes without clear definitions may have unintended consequences on local government ability to improve neighborhoods, enhance job creation, and provide affordable housing. In addition, current California state law on the subject has led to very few abuses of eminent domain. Given the widely differing conditions that exist in communities throughout the country, the issue is best addressed on the state and local level, rather than uniform federal prohibitions.

➤ ***Community Development/Affordable Housing***

The City strongly supports HUD programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care homeless assistance, and Section 8 voucher and project-based assistance and urges the congressional delegation to oppose any attempts to reduce funding for these popular programs or convert them into state block grants. Pasadena receives in excess of \$15 million combined annually from the programs, which fund a variety of community projects and services that are vital to our low-income residents. Federal funds for homeless assistance programs and investment in affordable housing that recognizes fair market rents in high-cost areas such as California are also important to the City's goals of serving our residents most in need. The City also opposes efforts to reduce available funding or place restrictions on the use of administrative fees to implement the Section 8 assisted housing program on the local level. Finally, the City supports the creation of an affordable housing program as part of legislation to reform Government Sponsored Enterprises, but opposes efforts in the legislation to prohibit non-profits receiving funds from the proposed program from participating on non-partisan voter registration efforts.

➤ ***Workforce Development***

Workforce development is a critical policy area that directly links the ability of California companies to compete in the global market. It provides cities and regions with the ability to retain and grow key industries and provides people with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to prosper in a changing economy. Funding levels are at their lowest in the short history of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which leaves the workforce

development system under funded and negatively impacts the ability to meet the needs of local job seekers and businesses.

The City supports reauthorization of WIA with continued flexibility and the primacy of the one stop system as the presumed deliverer of employment and training services. Sustained funding and enhanced policy development for workforce development initiatives are essential to a healthy employment and training system. The City supports a continued strong, locally-based, business-led workforce development system, including local WIB membership on State Boards, local board and local elected official participation in regional planning, maintenance of current funding levels to local areas, and protection of workforce areas designated as high-performing.

The City opposes reductions in local control and governance of workforce development areas, particularly where consolidation of existing workforce investment areas to create larger regions would be done without regard to effective performance of the existing workforce areas and governing bodies

➤ ***Public Health***

The City encourages the federal government to continue to provide the necessary resources to strengthen the existing public health infrastructure and help address the growing number of uninsured individuals without access to care. In particular, the City supports the continued funding of federally-qualified health centers, such as the Community Health Alliance of Pasadena (CHAP). The City opposes reductions in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as this would shift the cost of care for individuals in these programs to the state and local jurisdictions.

In addition, bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, and the emergence of new infectious disease threats such as the avian flu have increased the burdens on local health departments to be prepared for such events. The City encourages the Federal government to provide the resources to develop effective and coordinated community mitigation, preparedness, and response systems. A risk based allocation of bioterrorism and emergency preparedness funding, rather than a population based formula, would more appropriately address the public health needs in Pasadena.

Finally, the City Health Department supports increased funding and policies to assist with reduction of health disparities and expanding substance abuse recovery programs. As a new recipient of a Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP) grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the City encourages continued federal funding of this program.

➤ ***Senior Services***

A broad combination of Federal and State programs and subsidies are essential to the quality of life for seniors in Pasadena. The City opposes any cuts to funding for health care subsidies or related senior programs, with particular concern for reductions in funding for or delivery of support services that enable seniors and persons with disabilities to live independently or in the least restrictive setting appropriate. Further,

the City supports the inclusion of seniors as one of the preferential groups for consideration of public housing funds.

➤ ***Persons with Disabilities***

The City recognizes that education, health care, housing, recreation and employment opportunities are major factors in establishing independent lifestyles for persons with disabilities. The City opposes funding reductions for programs that assist persons with disabilities in establishing independent lifestyles.

➤ ***Human Relations Issues***

The City realizes that prejudice, intolerance and discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, parental status, gender, age, or cultural background are root causes of hate crimes and affect the lives of every resident in Pasadena. The City supports legislation and regulations that would eliminate hate crimes.

➤ ***Women's Issues***

The City of Pasadena is actively involved in promoting networks and programs that advance women's issues. The City supports: legislation and regulations that would improve women's access to quality healthcare; protection for domestic violence victims (including the availability of domestic violence shelters); expansion of resources to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace; legal assistance for women who are forced into slavery, prostitution and pornography (human trafficking); and, strengthening of laws that encourage equal pay for equal work without regard for gender.

➤ ***Library Services***

The City supports full funding for the Library and Technology Act (LSTA) programs at the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as well as continued IMLS funding for National Leadership grants for Library and Recruitment for Librarians for the 21st Century, and early childhood literacy programs that would involve partnerships between libraries, the local school district and other community-based agencies. The City would also support any revisions to Sections 215 and 216 of the USA Patriot Act that would exempt library circulation records from the Act.