



**Item #14-3-5
Action**

Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

February 27, 2014

Draft Budget and Overall Work Program Public Review Period

Issue: Release of Draft Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget and Overall Work Program (OWP) for Public Review.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board delegate to the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee authority to release the draft Budget & Overall Work Program for 30 days of public review commencing at its April 7 meeting.

Discussion: In recent years, an annual Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting was held after the Board released the draft budget and OWP in March for a required 30-day public review period. During this meeting, Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provided comments on the draft OWP. The formal MPO meeting is no longer required as part of new OWP development process guidelines. It has been replaced with an earlier, kick-off meeting and increased interaction throughout the OWP development period with the aforementioned federal and state agencies.

The change in OWP guidelines affords additional time to include new information, including updated revenue projections, into the draft budget and OWP before it is released for a 30-day public review period. By releasing the draft of the budget and OWP at the April 7 Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee, the comment period will conclude on May 9 and offer adequate time to incorporate any changes before a final Board action anticipated later in May. The proposed approach also includes a staff briefing on the draft budget and OWP at the April 17 Board meeting in order to ensure all Board members have an opportunity for review and discussion early in the comment period.

Approved by:

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