

Final
file

Statement by Joseph M. O'Connor
Associate Administrator for Right-of-Way and Environment
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Before the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation of the
Committee on Public Works and Transportation
House of Representatives
Concerning Progress of California Century Freeway
August 16, 1984

MR. CHAIRMAN and Members of the Subcommittee.. I am pleased to appear before this committee to discuss progress of the Century Freeway (Interstate Route 105). I am the Associate Administrator for Right-of-Way and Environment of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Washington Office contact on this project.

I would like to briefly review our progress on this project since this Committee's hearing last August. We believe that progress is being made in the various program elements. Within the replenishment housing program, most of the recent emphasis by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has been on the 1,175 units in the Last Resort Housing Program Segment. The FHWA has concurred in selection of contractors by HCD for the development of 317 rental housing units with a total estimated cost of \$21,694,930. We also authorized HCD to issue the 2nd Request for Proposal (RFP) in May 1984 for the construction of up to 800 units of rental housing. Obligation of the full \$60 million reservation of 1,175 Program funds will be completed this year.

The HCD has concluded negotiations of the last five outstanding proposals for the construction of ownership housing under RFP #1 in the \$110 Million Program

Segment. Construction should commence on these projects within the next six weeks. The total number of units completed or under construction in RFP #1 will be 377, with a total cost of \$32,216,501.

Another 83 housing units have been completed or are in active status in the construction of the 1,025 units of housing program segment. Acquisition of sites for these units is complete.

In summary, over \$56 million of housing construction has been authorized. Of the 3,700 units expected to be built under the Century Freeway program, 70 units are completed, 300 units are under construction, 320 units are in the contract award process, and the 500 units now in the pre-award process are expected to advance to the contract award status in this fiscal year.

The Century Freeway Housing Program has encountered problems in gearing up to delivering replenishment housing in the past. Associated problems were inherited by the recently appointed directors and managers of HCD. We believe these problems have been recognized and are being addressed by the present appointees. We are hopeful that sound administration of the Century Freeway Housing Program and delivery of replenishment housing will be effectively addressed and improved under the present HCD leadership and direction. Additionally, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is working closely with HCD to resolve staff needs. Some key staff persons from Caltrans have been reassigned to HCD.

Caltrans' program to acquire the right-of-way needed for the construction of Century Freeway has resulted in the acquisition of 5,410 parcels or 85 percent of 6,395 parcels that are needed at a cost of \$465.4 million. The remaining 985 parcels should be acquired within the next 3 to 4 years. Demolition of

vacant boarded-up buildings not needed for the replenishment housing program is virtually complete. Corridor security needs have diminished with the removal of vacant buildings.

Design on the project is slightly ahead of schedule. Major design features for the project have been approved by FHWA, and the preparation of contract documents is proceeding. Freeway construction on the corridor is advancing on schedule. As of today, we have authorized 19 projects totalling nearly \$56 million (\$55,650,000). In addition, between now and October 1, we expect to authorize an additional ten projects, bringing the total amount authorized to \$120 million or 13.1 percent of the total project construction cost. Most of these projects are for structures, frontage roads, and relocating local streets to facilitate construction of the main line. Project advancement activities continue to receive high priority by Caltrans and FHWA.

A consultant has completed testing of potentially hazardous materials remaining in the Wilco Dump site located just west of Route 7. A contract will soon be advertised to remove the remainder of the hazardous materials. A consultant is being selected to monitor removal of this material.

A high level of goal attainment with large Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/ Women Business Enterprise (DBE/WBE) program participation has been achieved on the Century Freeway Project (CFP). Thus far in Fiscal Year 1984, the program attained 36.7 percent DBE participation and 9.6 percent WBE for a total contract authorization of \$28.3 million. Agreement has been reached on a proposal to provide a Century Freeway Minority Bonding and Finance Program. The Century Freeway Affirmative Action Committee has continued to be actively engaged in promoting affirmative action and equal opportunity on the CFP. The Pre-apprenticeship Training Program has been very successful. A total of 321

apprentices have completed the pre-apprenticeship training, and 277 have been placed in contractor apprenticeship programs since the training was initiated in February 1982.

As for funding, it is expected that California's share of the Federal-aid Interstate funds authorized by the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act will be adequate to complete the Interstate System in that State. The one-half year Interstate apportionment for Fiscal Year 1984 did not seriously impact California as it carried over a substantial Interstate fund balance. However, failure to release the remainder of Fiscal Year 1984 funds or to provide for less than a full apportionment of Interstate funds for Fiscal Year 1985 would seriously impact the California Interstate program. The State expects to authorize about \$500 million of Interstate funds in Fiscal Year 1985; nearly \$200 million would be on the Century Freeway.

In conclusion, the FHWA continues to have a high level of commitment to this project and to its completion. We are optimistic that we will see a completed transportation facility in the early 1990's. I ~~would~~^{will} be happy to answer any questions you may have.