



OFFICE OF
CONTROLLER

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March 31, 2009

Ms. Rita L. Robinson, General Manager
Department of Transportation
100 S. Main Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Robinson:

**SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF DOT'S RESPONSE TO THE CONTROLLER'S
PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION
PROJECT**

My Audit Division evaluated your response, dated February 25, 2009, to the report entitled, "Performance Audit of the Department of Transportation's Traffic Signal Synchronization Project."

I appreciate your commitment to address areas noted in the audit where improvements can be made. While I recognize that implementation should reflect on-going efforts, having formal plans or policies to document management's intentions will help ensure that the spirit of the recommendations are fully understood by staff and will be implemented.

Recommendation 1:

LADOT should develop a formalized plan and schedule, and ensure necessary resources for before-and-after studies of the Prop 1B synchronization project.

Your response indicates that before-and-after studies have been or will be conducted on most major highways in the project area for Prop 1B projects. Exact dates for completing these studies is dependent on the State releasing Prop 1B construction funding for new projects.

I encourage you to prepare a formal plan/schedule for conducting the before-and-after studies and to document where studies have been completed to ensure there are



Ms. Rita L. Robinson, General Manager
March 31, 2009
Page 2 of 3

sufficient studies to demonstrate the benefits of the Prop 1B traffic synchronization throughout the City.

Recommendation 3:

LADOT should discontinue using non-participating change orders for unrelated work and ensure a competitive bidding process is followed for all construction related projects.

Your response recognizes that the non-participating change order process bypasses the formal competitive bidding process, and LADOT therefore solicits at least two bids from active contractors and these written bids become part of the change order package submitted for approval. However auditors found no supporting documentation to demonstrate this practice was followed, and more importantly, this practice is contrary to the City's policy regarding contracting for a specific scope of work. Your Department should discontinue using non-participating change orders for unrelated work and establish procedures that require a competitive bidding process for all construction-related projects so that multiple bids are solicited and documented, and the selection of the best price for the work can be supported.

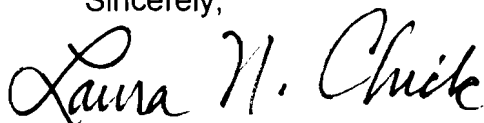
Recommendation 4:

The City should work with the County to assume a more significant leadership role in forging a regional strategy for traffic light synchronization and coordination.

Your response highlights the many ways in which LADOT plays a leadership role in transportation issues with our regional partners. My report also noted your efforts and I encourage you to continue with these endeavors. This recommendation was intended for the City's leaders to help support your Department's efforts by actively seeking ways to create a regional strategy. As the City's transportation expert, the expectation would be for LADOT to recommend to the City's policy leaders on how their influence could best be used in developing and continuing a regional strategy for traffic light synchronization and coordination.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Farid Saffar, Director of Auditing at (213) 978-7392.

Sincerely,



LAURA N. CHICK
City Controller

Ms. Rita L. Robinson, General Manager
March 31, 2009
Page 3 of 3

cc: Robin Kramer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
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Jaime de la Vega, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
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Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst
George Moss, President, Board of Transportation Commissioners