

Final Report

Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Program

Contract #: MS08001

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority



Date: May 9, 2014

Prepared for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Review Committee (MSRC) under the AB 2766
Discretionary Fund Work Program.

The statement and conclusions in this report are those of the contractor and not necessarily those of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) or the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The mention of commercial products, their sources or their uses in connection with material reported is not to be construed as either an actual or implied endorsement of such products.

Acknowledgements

In recognition of their contributions to the successful completion of this project, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority would like to acknowledge the following:

- California Highway Patrol, Partner Agency
- Caltrans, Partner Agency
- Hadley Towing, General Contractor

This report was submitted in fulfillment of MS08001 and Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Program by Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority under the partial sponsorship of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC). Deliverables were completed as of May 9, 2014, however, service will continue for the foreseeable future.

Project Description & Work Performed

Project Description

The Metro FSP Big Rig Program's goal is to quickly remove disabled large vehicles from freeway lanes and shoulders in order to keep traffic moving. The target corridor for the Program is a 9-mile segment of the State Route 91 (SR-91) freeway from the western Los Angeles/Orange County boundary at Orangethorpe Ave/Valley View Street to the Interstate 710 interchange. The remaining 19 miles of the 28-mile segment of the SR-91 freeway are expected to be covered by the Orange County Transportation Authority.

The first FSP Big Rig Service Patrol along the I-710 freeway was selected

The I-710 freeway has the highest volume of large commercial truck traffic in the nation and was selected for the Big Rig Service Patrol Pilot Project in 2005. The project was a success and the Metro Board of Directors authorized the pilot program transition to regular operation.

The selection of the SR-91 freeway for the second Big Rig Service Patrol segment was initially established as a joint big rig service project along the SR-91 freeway in LA & Orange counties, operated by Metro in Los Angeles County and OCTA in Orange County. The joint project was to receive supplemental funding from the MSRC in the amount of \$3 million with the two counties dividing the funds equally. Just prior to implementing the program, OCTA was not able to continue with the project as planned and was forced to withdraw. Metro decided to continue with the project without OCTA participation and contracted with the MSRC to receive \$1.5 million to support the operation of the project. The SR-91 freeway supported the third highest volume of large commercial truck traffic in Los Angeles County.

Procurement of Big Rig Contract

Metro released a RFP for the SR-91 Big Rig Service Patrol Contract and received several proposals. The statement of work was developed through the efforts of industry experts under contract with Metro as consultants the operational experience gained from the I-710 Big Rig Service Patrol Pilot Project.

Metro's first choice for the second segment of the Big Rig Service Patrol was the I-605 freeway between the I-10 and SR-91 freeways. This segment of freeway supported the second highest volume of large commercial truck traffic in Los Angeles County. The choice to establish Big Rig service on the SR-91 was due to the opportunity to receive grant funding from the MSRC and the attractiveness of operating a program in partnership with the OCTA (which did not materialize).

Service Provided

Metro's program calls for one heavy-duty tow truck plus one service/utility truck for patrolling. In addition, a backup heavy-duty tow truck is available in the event the primary heavy-duty or primary utility truck is not available for service. The program will clear the freeway of large disabled vehicles either through performing minor vehicle repairs on the freeway shoulder, removing disabled vehicles from freeway traffic lanes and medians, removing disabled vehicles from the freeway environment (towing off the freeway); or performing other duties as directed by authorized personnel (including the California Highway Patrol (CHP)). Providing assistance at major incidents is not a primary intention of the Program, and such assistance shall not occur without prior CHP direction.

Work Performed

Since as early as September 2010, Metro FSP Big Rig has continuously provided service along the project area five days a week, Monday through Friday. Heavy-duty tow truck service runs from 5:00am to 7:00pm, and is supplemented by a utility truck which runs from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Drivers are supervised by CHP, and undergo cursory inspections before they start service. Once on duty, FSP patrols the highways looking for traffic incidents that may be obstructing the flow of traffic. If minor repairs cannot be performed safely on the freeway shoulder, FSP Big Rig is able to tow the vehicle to a safe location off of the freeway environment. FSP Big Rig is ready to change flat tires, jump-start cars, refill the radiator, make temporary repairs to minor water and fuel leaks, assist with brakes, provide fuel, or tow/repair a jack-knifed tractor/trailer rig.

Problems Encountered

The FSP Big Rig Contractor Hadley Towing did not experience problems of any significance. Disabled large vehicles were assisted utilizing the operational protocol and equipment required per their contract. We did however underestimate the amount of fuel required to prime and start the large tractor engines. Initially we estimated that 10 gallons of fuel/diesel would be required to prime/start and provide sufficient fuel to travel to a fueling facility, however, in most cases the Contractor reported that it took approximately 15-20 gallons.

Emissions Benefits

The FSP Big Rig program has been estimated to save motorists over 500,000 vehicle-hours of delay every year. In addition, for every vehicle-hour of traffic delay, about 1.7 gallons of fuel are unnecessarily consumed and about 33.8 pounds of additional carbon dioxide are released into the air along with other harmful emissions. Annually, FSP Big Rig is reducing waste of 850,000 gallons of fuel, as well as 16,900,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions annually within LA county freeways.

Photographs & Outreach

In accordance with the Public Outreach Plan submitted by Metro, an article has been prepared and posted on the Metro's website, as well as on Metro's 'The Source' Blog, dated April 7, 2014. (See Attachment 1 for a copy of the article) These websites are accessible at <http://www.metro.net/> and <http://thesource.metro.net/> respectively.

Summary & Conclusions

Metro's FSP Big Rig program fulfills Metro's vision of providing courteous service dedicated to providing Los Angeles County with a world class transportation system. Metro values the safety of the general public, and aims to assist motorists who are stalled or stranded and assist them in getting to a safe location off of the freeway environment.

Since as early as September 2010, Metro FSP Big Rig has provided service along the project area, Monday through Friday. Drivers are supervised by CHP, and undergo cursory inspections before they start service. Once on duty, FSP patrols the highways looking for traffic incidents that may be obstructing the flow of traffic. FSP Big Rig is ready to change flat tires, jump-start cars, refill the radiator, make temporary repairs to minor water and fuel leaks, assist with brakes, provide fuel, or tow/repair a jack-knifed tractor/trailer rig.

Metro FSP Big Rig was developed and implemented as a public service that reduces traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby improving the air quality for the citizens of the greater Los Angeles area. During the project period, we have assisted over 10,000 motorists along the SR-91 coverage area. To date, it is estimated that FSP has decreased fuel waste by 2,550,000 gallons, while carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions were decreased by 50,700,000 pounds.

Attachment 1

Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Program Reaches Milestone Number of Motorist Assists on SR-91

Monday April 07, 2014



The Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Big Rig Tow Truck Program is a congestion mitigation program that specifically targets large disabled trucks and semi-tractor trailers. FSP Big Rig currently serves both State Route 91 (SR-91) and Interstate 710 (I-710) in Los Angeles County. With 1.5 million dollars in financial support from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), Metro's FSP Big Rig operations on SR-91 have recently hit a milestone of 10,000 motorist assists as of this March. This falls in line with the MSRC's goals of reducing air pollution from motor

vehicles, as well as Metro FSP's goals of keeping traffic lanes moving by quickly clearing incidents from Los Angeles' freeways.

The FSP Big Rig program is intended to reduce mobile source emissions and traffic congestion by quickly assisting and clearing large disabled vehicles from freeway lanes and shoulders. For every vehicle-hour of traffic delay about 1.7 gallons of fuel are unnecessarily consumed and about 33.8 pounds of additional carbon dioxide are released into the air along with other harmful emissions, exacerbating our already questionable air quality. By quickly and efficiently aiding disabled vehicles, the FSP Big Rig program has been able to help keep traffic flowing and reduce congestion related air pollution. Metro's FSP Big Rig program has been estimated to save motorists over 500,000 vehicle-hours of delay every year.

FSP Big Rig can tow/repair a jack-knifed tractor/trailer rig, pull the vehicle from traffic lanes to the roadway shoulder, make a temporary repair to minor water and fuel leaks, assist with brakes, or provide sufficient fuel to travel to the nearest fueling facility. Big Rig Service is provided Monday through Friday from 5:00 am to 7:00 pm. FSP Big Rig currently operates on SR-91 and I-710, two of the busiest truck routes in Los Angeles County.

In addition to the Big Rig FSP service on SR-91 and I-710, Metro's light duty FSP program offers assistance to cars and other vehicles, up to a maximum of 6,000 lbs, on most freeways in Los Angeles. For FSP roadside assistance, motorists can call 511 from any cellphone and request motorist aid. FSP can assist with changing a flat tire, jump starting a car, refilling radiators, providing up to one gallon of gasoline, and towing a stranded car to a safe location off the freeway. Light duty FSP service is provided Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm, and on weekends from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm.

ABOUT THE MSRC

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) was formed in 1990 when Assembly Bill AB 2766 was signed into law authorizing a \$4 motor vehicle registration fee. Thirty percent of the \$4 fee or approximately \$14 million annually is used for programs administered by the MSRC. All of the programs eligible for funding must reduce air pollution from mobile sources.

Membership of the MSRC is made up of representatives from the transportation agencies of Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange County, as well as the Southern California Association of Governments, Southern California Rideshare, California Air Resources Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.