



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

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## VIII.B

**DATE:** December 2, 2021  
**TO:** Governing Board  
**FROM:** David Kriske, AVCJPA Representative, Metro Technical Advisory Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Metro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Update

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Note and File.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Metro TAC meets monthly to provide input on Metro programs and projects, and to hear updates on various Metro programs that affect the cities, subregions, and Councils of Government in Los Angeles County. The following summarizes the major projects or programs recently discussed at TAC.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Federal Stimulus Funding Update

Metro provided a brief update on several federal programs that will direct one-time transit funding to Metro and the local transit operators within Los Angeles County. The Federal Government adopted three stimulus funding programs since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that provide relief to transit agencies, including the CARES Act in March 2020, the CRRSA Act in December 2020, and the American Rescue Plan in March 2021. As the lead recipient of this funding, Metro has either applied for or has drawn down this funding and is in the process of distributing a portion of the proceeds to transit operators in concert with Metro Board Policy. Notably, this includes about \$15.3 million allocated to the Tier 2 Eligible Operators including the Arroyo Verdugo Cities BurbankBus, Glendale Beeline, and Pasadena Transit, along with LADOT. Staff from the three cities is in the process of executing grant agreements with Metro to receive a portion of the funding, or in some cases is receiving additional funding added onto pre-existing funding programs. Funds can be used to back-fill and support transit operations costs that increased due to COVID-19, or that were not covered due to COVID-related funding shortfalls. What is further notable about this allocation of funds is that normally the Tier 2 operators are not eligible for federal transit funding, but the subregion's representation on various policy boards helped to ensure Metro accounted for the Tier 2 operators when distributing this relief funding.

#### Metro I-710 South Project Update

Metro staff provide TAC an update on the Metro I-710 South project, which aims to make freeway and corridor improvements to the I-710 between the LA Port complex and Interstate 10. The project has been undergoing state and federal environmental review, but the Metro Board of Directors asked staff to suspend the environmental review process, establish a I-710 task force, and examine EPA concerns

that the project will generate fine particulate matter emissions that will likely prevent the project from confirming to Federal Law. Metro staff discussed their recommendation for establishing a task force representing corridor stakeholders including community-based organizations to determine how to reach residents living along the project corridor to improve outreach about the project. The Board asked that this task force and outreach process be used to re-envision the project that meets transportation goals and considers the needs of corridor stakeholders and residents. Metro staff plans to return to the Board of Directors in April 2022 with recommendations for improving outreach to corridor stakeholders and residents.

#### Los Angeles Construction Market Analysis

Metro staff presented TAC with findings from its construction market analysis, which analyzes the state of the construction market and its impacts on major transportation projects. Metro's analysis indicated that the broader economy is recovering faster than during the Great Recession, and that this is causing ongoing construction labor shortages and cost increases. This could impact Metro construction activity, which is expected to peak in 2025 when several regional transportation projects will be simultaneously under construction. Staff outlined steps Metro intends to take to address this potential construction cost impact including consideration of alternative project delivery methods, providing labor training and incentives to attract construction workers to the region, and providing temporary housing for project labor during major project construction. This construction outlook affects Metro major projects, but its effects may also be seen in smaller construction projects undertaken by local cities who may be competing for regional construction labor across LA County.

#### Metro Youth Council

Metro staff provided a presentation on the creation of a 25-member youth council, which seeks to gather input from youth ages 14 through 17 on Metro programs and projects. Several Metro plans include a goal to engage with youth communities including the Long Range Transportation Plan, Vision 2028, and Fareless transit planning efforts. Metro solicited applications from interested youth between October 18 and November 18, and members will be selected for a year-long term that begins in January 2022. The Council will meet monthly to review Metro programs and projects and give input. The purpose is to ensure that Metro's programs consider and account for the needs of youth riders in the agency's planning efforts.

#### Metro "Big Data" Location-based Data Sharing

Metro staff provided information on efforts to make several "big data" datasets available to cities and other agencies through the Los Angeles County Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems (RIITS). These data services were purchased by Metro primarily to help develop the Metro NextGen bus restructuring, and includes anonymized cell phone location-based data to summarize all trips made in Los Angeles County including information on trip mode shares for all trips in LA County. Metro has purchased a broader license for this data to make it available to other agencies in Los Angeles County through the existing RIITS transportation data system. Metro is currently developing a dashboard and procedures to access the data, and intends to make this data available in spring 2022.

### Transit Oriented Communities (TOC)

Metro staff presented its updated TOC Implementation Plan, which guides Metro's implementation of how it develops transit oriented development on Metro real estate and around Metro stations, in collaboration with host cities. The plan directs Metro staff to assess the greatest opportunities for TOC development, update how the agency awards TOC funding for planning and development opportunities to focus on equity, affordable housing, access to transit, and responding to the COVID-19 crisis. As part of this effort, Metro is also providing direct grant-writing support to cities interested in seeking TOC grant funds to support several broad TOC activities, including long-range planning, affordable housing project development, first-last mile active transportation improvements, transit access to parks, and implementation of Measure Metro Active Transport policy. This grant writing will focus on specific focus communities identified by Metro and will prioritize allocating assistance for projects that serve these areas. Several AVCJPA neighborhoods are identified by Metro as being candidate locations for projects. Metro staff provide a timeline and process for seeking grant assistance as part of the presentation.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no Fiscal Impact to receive this TAC update.