



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

DATE: April 4, 2024
TO: Governing Board
FROM: David Kriske, AVCJPA Representative, Metro Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: Metro Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Update

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

I-405 Sepulveda Pass Express Lanes Project Update

Metro staff provided an update on the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Express Lanes Project, which will convert HOV lanes to HOT (Express Toll) lanes along a 14-mile portion of the freeway between just south of I-10 and just north of US 101. Metro indicated that staff has collected fieldwork data and the project has commenced with environmental review. Staff also plans to conduct targeted outreach for Equity-focused communities in coordination with Metro's Community-based Organization partners. The proposed HOT lanes would operate similarly to HOV lanes, where single-occupant vehicles would pay a toll, but HOV vehicles would pay a reduced or free fee to drive. Metro also indicated that currently low-income express lanes users are eligible for financial assistance through the Express Lanes low-income Assistance program, which would apply to this corridor. Metro also expects toll lane fees would be used to fund additional transit services in the corridor. Metro expects to release a Draft EIR/EIS for the project in Summer 2024.

Joint Development Program Update

Metro staff provided information to TAC regarding its Joint Development Program, which aims to construct low-income housing units on its properties to provide additional affordable housing units near its transit network. Metro has set a goal of constructing new affordable housing units on its properties to house 10,000 residents by 2031, with 5,000 of those residents being income-restricted. To date, 4,000 residents have been housed and 2,200 new units (800 affordable) have been constructed since 2021. However, to meet Metro's 10,000 resident goal, production of housing must under the joint development program must increase 10-fold. To do that, Metro has begun

standardizing the development process by creating an RFQ bench of developers via a competitive selection process, which will be completed in Spring 2024. In addition, Metro plans on increasing community engagement around its joint development sites to address local and site-specific issues ahead of project development. Metro intends to issue site-specific RFPs to develop in Summer 2024.

Metro Micro Fare Update

Metro staff provided an update on efforts to modify the Metro Micro transit system base fare to \$2.50 from the current \$1.00 fare. This new fee was adopted by the Metro Board, which ended the \$1.00 fare that was enacted as part of the pilot program in October 2020. Separately, in September 2023 the Metro Board approved a one-year extension of the Metro Micro contract in order to implement the new \$2.50 fare and to make other operational improvements. The new fare structure also includes free fare transfers to Metro bus and rail, and includes discounts to eligible riders. Metro has begun a notification campaign to let riders know of the upcoming fare changes and discount programs available. The new \$2.50 fare went into effect in March 2024. Metro will continue to monitor operations, ridership, and efficiency of the program as it continues to negotiate a new contract to extend the service beyond the one-year contract extension, and an additional six-month extension was approved if negotiations extend beyond that time.

Active Transportation Program Cycle 7 Grant Program

Metro staff updated the TAC on the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 7 grant program, which allocates state funds that implement state active transportation program projects. Applications for the Cycle 7 grant cycle open in March 2024 and close on June 17, 2024. Metro confirmed that \$568.7 million will be available for funding for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2029. Metro accepted grant writing assistance requests on a rolling basis through February 13, 2024, to assist local agencies in applying for projects that implement Metro goals and policies. Governor's proposed budget includes a \$200 million cut to ATP and the draft ATP Fund Estimate does not include the reduction of the budget cut should it be approved by the legislature as part of the budget process. CTC adoption of ATP fund estimate occurs in March, and is revised in August based on the actual adopted budget, so available funding could be reduced from the \$568.7 million amount. CTC staff released new online tools to determine Justice 40 Initiative eligibility for the ATP Draft guidelines including anti-displacement quick-build project implementation resources.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no Fiscal Impact to receive this TAC update.