



Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

VIII.B

DATE: February 1, 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

Metro Federal Funding Corrective Action

Metro staff gave an overview of a new funding program that will be implemented to address a corrective action required by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to remedy incorrect administration of certain federal funds. These funds were previously allocated by SCAG to Metro by a population formula, and Metro would then allocate these funds to regional and local projects through various LA County funding programs. Funding included in this corrective action include Congestion Management and Air Quality Funds and Surface Transportation Block Grant funds. Cities may have previously received these funds through Metro grant programs. The corrective action from FHWA states that these funds cannot be allocated by Metro, and must instead be allocated by SCAG directly to projects through a competitive project.

As a result of this corrective action, SCAG has initiated a new call for projects to solicit applications for these funds, and has asked Metro to conduct initial screening of projects for LA County agencies and then submit to SCAG for final approval. The call for projects period opened January 10 and closes February 16. Projects will then be screened by Metro staff and approved by the Metro Board in March 2024. Final approval by SCAG will occur in July 2024. Scoring will be dependent on projects implementing SCAG's RTP/SCS plan policies and strategies, its federal performance measures, positive benefits to priority equity communities, and (for CMAQ funds) improving air quality. Projects are also favored that demonstrate readiness and ability to meet deadlines. Metro indicate that this program will become a recurring funding opportunity available for agencies to submit projects.

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. Funding for this grant cycle is eligible from Fiscal Year 2026 through Fiscal Year 2029, and approximately \$556 million will be awarded through this cycle. The Active Transportation Program project funding approvals are split between funds awarded through Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs, e.g. SCAG) and funds awarded statewide by the California Transportation Commission. Project applications are selected in late 2024 for the statewide projects and mid-2026 for the MPO projects. Metro staff also announced an opportunity for cities to apply for grant writing assistance; applications for assistance are due in February 2024 and are considered for projects that implement Metro's First/Last Mile Plan and are within disadvantaged communities. Metro staff also gave an overview of the scoring for the MPO approved projects, which for LA County include consistency with Metro's First/Last Mile plan and Active Transportation Strategic Plan.

Metro Emergency Preparedness and Response

Metro gave an update on its systemwide Emergency Preparedness and Response programs and procedures to address emergencies. Metro's regular emergency management program include training, drills and exercises, early warning, and emergency supplies at all Metro revenue sites, as well as ongoing training of Metro employees and management of an emergency operations center. Metro staff also reviewed several specific emergency response activities such as emergency preparedness and response drills on the bus and rail system to ensure that staff and first responders are trained, prepared, and ready to respond to incidents. For earthquakes, Metro conducts annual earthquake drills during the California Great Shakeout and has an earthquake early warning pilot program to preemptively stop trains and prepare for ground shaking in the minutes and seconds before an earthquake. Staff also described how its EOC assists with response and recovery, coordinates with local, state, and federal partners, and supports resource requests. Metro also prepares for major evacuations including large-scale incidents like natural and man-made hazards, as well as industrial and technological hazards. Metro's emergency response utilizes a variety of staff across the agency including transit security, homeless outreach teams, ambassadors, private security contractors, TAP blue shirts personnel, and law enforcement contracts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Fiscal Impact to receive this TAC update.