Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

ITEM# VIII. B

DATE: December 5, 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 Mobility Wallet Update
Metro is coordinating with the City of Los Angeles to implement a Universal Basic Mobility program as part of a Sustainable Transportation Equity Project grant awarded by the California Air Resources Board. The Mobility Wallet is a prepaid debit card that participants may use towards shared transportation and mobility options. A pilot program to implement the wallet was conducted with 1,000 low-income participants in South Los Angeles, of which 80% were car- light households (<1 car per adult), and 40% were no-car households. UCLA and UC Davis evaluated the program and found that participants increased travel across various transportation modes for more trip purposes and experienced a significant increase in transportation security, as validated using the Transportation Security Index. Metro plans a second pilot expanded to 2,000 participants spread across the county in late 2024.

Metro TAP Plus Program
Metro staff provided an update on the TAP Plus program, which was approved by the Metro Board of Directors in June 2024. TAP Plus is a series of upgrades that will modernize the fare payment system and make it easier for riders to pay fares. The main benefit is that riders will soon have the option to pay transit fares directly via credit card by simply tapping their credit or debit card at any fare validator on all TAP-participating transit agencies. A second benefit is that all trip and fare information will become cloud-based thereby offering more flexibility for customers purchasing fare or using discounts such as LIFE and GoPass. Metro plans to conduct community education and outreach during the remainder of 2024. Metro will begin testing Tap Plus in 2025 before Metro launches the full credit/debit card fare payment system in 2026. Metro expects TAP trip and fare information to be fully

moved to the TAP Cloud in 2026. Metro will stress test the system upgrades ahead of the 2026 World Cup, 2027 Super Bowl, and 2028 Olympics.

Metro Transit Community Public Safety Department Implementation Plan

Metro staff provided an update on steps to implement the Metro Transit Community Public Safety Department (TCPSD), which is the program to create a Metro public safety department to directly provide law enforcement services on the Metro system. In June 2024, the Metro Board approved staff to proceed with the implementation of the Transit Community Public Safety Department over a phased five-year transition. While Metro once had an internal security force in the 1970s, Metro has contracted with the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and Long Beach Police Department for transit system security and patrols since the 1990s. The implementation of the TCPSD seeks to address the biggest challenges impacting perceptions of rider and employee safety on Metro's system. Currently, Metro is beginning a public engagement process to support the recruitment of the Chief of Police. Once a Chief is hired, Metro plans to implement a transition in phases including transition from contracted to in-house policing, resource planning, and monitoring and evaluation. The department will launch a comprehensive transit-specific training curriculum for its new workforce and advance a zone- based and tiered/co-response model of transit policing. The Metro Board of Directors also directed staff to retain the current 386 daily deployment of law enforcement officers, and increased deployment of Metro Ambassadors, Crisis Interventionists/Clinicians, and Homeless Outreach by an additional 227 daily deployments. Separately, Metro is also allocating $5 million towards public safety infrastructure improvements at selected transit stations.

State and SCAG Grant Program Updates

Metro staff provided updates on the State Active Transportation Program (ATP) and SCAG grant programs. California Transportation Commission staff released preliminary recommendations for the statewide ATP Cycle 7 funding program. Grant awards will be approved by the CTC at their December 2024 meeting. Next June, the CTC will release recommendations for the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization portion of the grant cycle, which will be approved by the CTC at the June 2025 meeting. Separately, SCAG plans to approve grant awards for their Sustainable Communities Program-Active Transportation and Safety (SCP- ATS) funding, which provides funding for active transportation plans and "quick-build" projects. SCAG released staff recommendations for funding and plans to seek approval by the Regional Council on December 5, 2024. SCAG received 27 total applications, 16 of which were from LA County. Of the LA County applications, 5 were planning projects and 11 were quick-build projects. SCAG staff recommended funding for a project submitted by the City of Burbank to make quick-build protected bike lane and intersection improvements in Downtown Burbank.

Metro C and K Line Operating Plan for New LAX/Metro Transit Center Opening

Metro is reconfiguring the operating plans for the C and K Lines in preparation for the LAX/Metro Transit Center and Aviation/Century station openings. Currently, the C (Green) Line has been running for almost 30 years between Norwalk and Redondo Beach. The K (Crenshaw) Line extends service between Exposition/Crenshaw and Westchester/Veterans in the city of Los Angeles. On November 4, the C Line was reconfigured to connect service between Norwalk and the future LAX Metro Transit

Center station. The K Line will pick up the C Line's current service to four El Segundo and Redondo Beach stations (Mariposa, El Segundo, Douglas, and Redondo Beach). The existing C & K Line Link (Metro Bus Bridge) service will continue until the LAX/Metro Transit Center opens with full end- to-end K Line service between Exposition/Crenshaw and Redondo Beach. These service changes were implemented in anticipation of the opening of the LAX People Mover Train in early 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no Fiscal Impact to receive this TAC update.