Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority

ITEM# XI B

DATE: April 29, 2026

TO: Governing Board

FROM: **David Kriske, AVCJPA Representative, Metro Technical Advisory Committee**

SUBJECT: Metro Technical Advisory Committee Updates

RECOMMENDATION

Note and File.

BACKGROUND

The Metro Technical Advisory Committee (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 report summarizes the major projects or programs recently discussed at TAC.

DISCUSSION

Tap Validator Update

Metro staff presented an overview of upcoming improvements to Metro's TAP fare payment system. The update marks a significant shift toward payment flexibility by introducing contactless credit and debit card support across all TAP agencies starting in Spring 2026. This expansion aims to enhance rider convenience while maintaining existing support for traditional TAP cards and cash. Key features of the rollout include the preservation of free transfers and fare capping for users who stick to the same card throughout their journey, as well as a new multi-rider function that allows a single card to pay for up to five passengers. This modernization effort is strategically timed to support upcoming FIFA World Cup and the Olympic games by streamlining the boarding process and simplifying fare payment for visitors.

Metro Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Program Appeals

Metro TAC heard appeals from agencies who applied for transit funds under Metro's FTA Section 5310 grant program and did not receive the funding they requested. FTA Section 5310 funds are federal funds which are dedicated to enhancing transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Metro receives an allocation of these funds from the federal government and provides a grant program for transit agencies and other transportation providers to apply for these grant funds. For the FY 2025 grant cycle, Metro received grant applications from 42 applicants requesting nearly double the available $10.75M budget. The TAC heard appeals from three applicants who applied for funding but did not receive a grant award. The TAC approved a recommendation to distribute $510,914 in unawarded funding to Pomona Valley Transportation Authority, City of Glendale and ARC Los Angeles & Orange County.

Active Transportation Program and Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program Grant Cycles

Metro staff announced that the Active Transportation Program Cycle 8 grant was announced, which would fund active transportation projects for the FY28-31 period. The Cycle 8 program is expected to have $619 million in funding available. The California Transportation Commission was expected to approve the final grant guidelines and application materials in March 2026, and CTC staff also offered grant workshops and virtual site visits with prospective applicants to discuss projects. The grant application period is now open, and applications are due June 22, 2026. Metro staff also discussed Cycle 8 of the Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program, which provides funding for transit projects and other supportive infrastructure that modernizes California's transit systems and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Cycle 8 applications are currently open for funds that would be available between 2026 and 2031 and are due May 18, 2026. Approximately $980 million has been allocated for Cycle 8.

Metro Micro Update

Metro staff provided an update on its Metro Micro service since the introduction of a new service operating model and software in March 2025. Metro micro provides on-demand service across eight primary zones, including three zones in the Arroyo Verdugo cities. The service has achieved a 34% ridership increase as compared to the service model in place before March 2025 and saw an all-time high monthly ridership of 70,800 rides and 3.66 passengers per hour in October 2025. On-time performance also increased to 93 percent, which was attributable to using google traffic data in its new scheduling software. Metro Micro's cost per ride has also been decreasing due to the increased ridership and was $23 per ride in September 2025. Metro also implemented some service adjustments due to customer feedback, including driver notification to passenger prior to a "no-show", notification when drivers are late, and more driver coaching on customer service.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no Fiscal Impact to receive this TAC update.