



Very Small Starts Program

The Small Starts Program, a component of the existing New Starts Program, is a discretionary grant program for public transportation capital projects.

To qualify for federal funding, Small Starts projects must run along a dedicated corridor or fixed guideway. The Federal Transit Administration has outlined two classes of Small Starts Projects that are very simple, low-cost (\$50 million or less), and demonstrably cost effective and defined them as Very Small Starts projects.

The Small Starts Program was created by the U.S. Congress in 2005 as part of our nation's surface transportation bill – the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

In 2007, Metro was pleased to secure broad support from both the Executive Branch and Congress for the Metro Rapid System Gap Closure Program which was submitted as a Very Small Starts Project. This project will expand Metro's successful Metro Rapid program by initiating service on eight new corridors.

In 2008, Metro is seeking federal funding for three Very Small Starts Programs that are outlined in this document.



Metro

Metro Rapid System



Bus-Only Lane Project – Wilshire Boulevard

- > The Wilshire Boulevard Bus-Only Lane project is a 12.5 mile project that will expedite passenger travel times on this busy corridor by an average of 30%.
- > Presently, Metro handles over 100,000 bus boardings on a daily basis on the Wilshire Corridor, making this corridor the busiest bus route in the nation.
- > This project would involve street widening, reconstruction of selected curb lanes, and lane re-striping, among other enhancements.
- > The Wilshire Boulevard Bus-Only Lane project would extend from Wilshire/Valencia to Wilshire/Centinela.
- > The total federal contribution being sought for this Very Small Starts project is:

\$23.3 Million



Bus Speed Improvement Project – Van Nuys Corridor

- > The Van Nuys Corridor Bus Speed Improvement project will decrease the travel time for bus commuters along the busiest transit corridor in the San Fernando Valley.
- > Presently, nearly 33,000 bus boardings are managed by Metro on the Van Nuys Corridor on a daily basis.
- > The improvements incorporated in this project include enhanced transit priority systems at signalized intersections, bus lanes where feasible, and interchange improvements.
- > The project would extend 10.25 miles, along Van Nuys Boulevard between Ventura Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard.
- > The total federal contribution being sought for this Very Small Starts project is:

\$6.6 Million



Bus-Only Lane Project – Sepulveda Corridor

- > The Sepulveda Corridor Bus-Only Lane project is a 7.6 mile northbound fixed guideway project consisting of a dedicated bus-only lane.
- > The project will accelerate travel times by approximately 24% for the 11,300 weekday boardings currently using the line.
- > These improvements in service would deliver, by 2030, over 8.9 million person hours saved due to enhanced operating efficiencies.
- > The project would extend along Sepulveda Boulevard between Ventura Boulevard and Chatsworth Street.
- > The total federal contribution being sought for this Very Small Starts project is:

\$29.9 Million



Metro Rapid Network



Los Angeles County
 Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 One Gateway Plaza
 Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Contact:
 Metro Government Relations
 213.922.7175

