

**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.netREVISION #2Regular Board Meeting  
September 27, 2007**SUBJECT: 2007 COUNTYWIDE CALL FOR PROJECTS****ACTION: APPROVE 2007 COUNTYWIDE CALL FOR PROJECTS**RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the following actions for the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects (as further described this report and attachments):

- A. Approve staff recommendations in Attachment A regarding Call for Projects, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) motions, public comments, and additional staff funding recommendations;
- B. Program \$454.520 million, in eight (8) modal categories as shown in Attachment B for the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects, including \$8.148 million in FY 2007-08, and FY 08-09 Supplemental Call funding and advance \$5 million from the 2009 Countywide Call for Projects to the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects in the time period of FY 2010-13, to fund Project # 1178, I-710 Early Action Plan – Intersection Improvements for the City of South Gate, with the expectation that the cash flow requirements can be met through first priority for funding from deobligated or delayed projects;
- C. Approve all projects in Attachment B for potential nomination to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for 2008 State Transportation Improvement (State TIP) funds as necessary;
- D. Amend the recommended 2007 Countywide Call for Projects Program of Projects (Attachment B) in the FY 2008/09–2013/14 Los Angeles County Regional Transportation Improvement Program (Regional TIP);
- E. Administer the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects as a project-specific grant program with the requirement that project sponsors bear all cost increases;
- F. Authorize Metro to administratively provide project sponsors with funding in earlier years than shown in Attachment B, if project sponsor can demonstrate project readiness to proceed and such funds are available;

G. Adopt the resolution contained in Attachment C required by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) which certifies that Los Angeles County has the resources to fund the projects in the FY 2008/09 –2013/14 Regional TIP and affirms its commitment to implement all of the projects in the program.

## ISSUE

Metro has completed the evaluation of project applications submitted through the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects and have made final recommendations. Metro is recommending Board approval of 169 projects totaling \$454.520 million.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Federal statute (Title 23 U.S.C. 134 (g) & (h)) and state statute (P.U.C. 130303) require Metro to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Los Angeles County. The TIP allocates revenues across all surface transportation modes based on the planning requirements of the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Metro accomplishes these mandates, in part, by programming transportation revenues through a Countywide Call for Projects process wherein Los Angeles County local agencies and transit agencies may apply for funding of regionally significant projects. These regionally significant projects are often beyond the fiscal capabilities of local sponsors, and the Countywide Call process allows an opportunity for these additional projects to be funded to meet the County's transportation needs. The Countywide Call implements Metro's multi-modal programming responsibilities for Los Angeles County and the Board-adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Countywide Call process awards funds on a competitive basis for projects that successfully demonstrate their mobility benefits.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

In April 2007, the Metro Board approved the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects modal category preliminary funding marks and preliminary fund estimate of \$450 million. A total of \$454.520 million is recommended to fund the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects listed in Attachment B. Funds for the first year of the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects are included in the FY 2008 Metro Budget under Cost Center 0441, Subsidies to Others. Future year funding will be included in subsequent annual Metro budgets. **Call for Projects funding is subject to the availability of state and federal funding as planned. Should state and federal funding be reduced beyond Metro's control, staff will return to the Metro Board with recommendations on how to fund all Metro's programs, including the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects.**

At the July 18, 2007 Metro Planning and Programming Committee meeting, representatives from the City of South Gate brought to attention that their Project # F1178, I-710 Early Action Plan – Intersection Improvements, should have received a higher score due to overmatch. A revised score would place the project above the line for funding in the Regional Surface Transportation Improvements modal category. Metro's Planning and Programming Committee recommended and approved the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects as amended

to include a stipulation that in view of the fact that there was a scoring error, that the four or five projects that are going to be eliminated from the present certification would be first in line for funding from any lapsing or delayed projects.

Recognizing the fact that South Gate was provided the opportunity to appeal their local match score at the TAC Appeals meeting on May 22, 2007, and considering the impact on the four to five projects that would be eliminated, it is recommended instead that \$5 million is advanced from the 2009 Countywide Call for Projects to fund Project #1178. The \$5 million will be accelerated from the 2009 Countywide Call for Projects by making these funds the first priority for future lapsing and deobligated project dollars.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The Board may suggest alternative projects for funding through the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects process. Projects added to the recommended list will result in other projects either moving off the funded list or projects receiving reduced levels of funding.

The Board could also choose to eliminate or defer the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects. This is not recommended, as transportation funds have not been programmed through the Call since FY 2000-01. The Board adopted 2001 LRTP envisioned a Call for Projects in 2003 and 2005, both of which were deferred. Further, a preliminary financial analysis was presented to the Board for the Draft LRTP update that assumed the Call for Projects would continue throughout the Plan's 25-year period beginning in 2007.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Call for Projects Overview**

Work on the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects process began in August 2006. Metro's TAC, TAC subcommittees, and sub-regional agencies were consulted to develop the current Call for Projects process and application requirements. In November 2006, the Metro Board approved the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects Application Package, which provided instructions to project applicants. As in past Calls, the application for Goods Movement projects was integrated with the Regional Surface Transportation Improvements (RSTI) modal category. The 2007 Countywide Call also provided a Supplemental funding process which allowed local government sponsors, on a one-time basis, to apply for additional funding needed to address cost increases for previously-approved Call projects programmed in FY 08 and FY 09.

Metro hosted a Call for Projects Workshop at Metro Headquarters on November 7, 2006, and provided outreach to the various subregions throughout the same month. This was particularly important in reacquainting both local jurisdictions and public transportation agencies about the Call process, requirements and application evaluation criteria, as Metro hasn't conducted a Countywide Call for Projects since the fall of 2000.

A total of 407 project applications were received in late January 2007 and the technical evaluation process began. This evaluation was conducted by technical teams, who reviewed projects within each of the transportation modal categories using the Board approved application requirements and evaluation criteria. A preliminary project recommendations list was developed and mailed to project applicants TAC members in early May 2007.

A special meeting of TAC was held on May 9<sup>th</sup> to review the preliminary project scores and funding recommendations, and again on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to hear appeals from 13 agencies on 38 projects. TAC concurred with staff recommendations, with the exception of four Goods Movement projects in the Regional Surface Transportation Improvement (RSTI) modal category, and made motions regarding these projects (see Attachment A). At the June 20, 2007 Special Board Workshop, the Board considered Metro's preliminary project recommendations and TAC motions. In addition, the Board received testimony from the public. Attachment A is a matrix of responses to the Board receive and file motion, TAC motions, public comment, and additional Metro recommendations. Final recommendations, as well as updated financial information were presented to the TAC on July 11, 2007.

### **Fund Estimate Assumptions**

Due to the size and complexity of Metro's Countywide Call for Projects process, the Board adopted in April 2007 both a preliminary fund estimate of \$450 million available during the six (6) year Call for Projects period, and preliminary modal category funding marks. The preliminary fund estimate is based on federal, state and local fund forecasts based on the LRTP Update. The preliminary fund estimate also accounted for the \$86 million Supplemental Call approved by the Board in January 2007 for projects previously approved through the Call for Projects with funds programmed in FY 2007 or earlier. The preliminary modal category funding marks are based on the Board-adopted 2001 LRTP.

Forecasts for the local fund sources are consistent with the Draft LRTP update and Metro's Debt Policy. Federal funding forecasts are based on historical trends, but are adjusted to reflect federal Highway Trust fund growth rates and possible downside risks (e.g., possible reductions in amounts of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement [CMAQ] Program funds). State fund forecasts are also based on historical trends, but do not reflect growth due to higher priority needs such as State Highway safety, maintenance, and operating costs. The specific funding sources and amounts chosen for the 2007 Countywide Call are subject to change based upon the projects finally selected and other factors, including project eligibility and availability.

### **Final Metro Staff Recommendations**

On May 4, 2007, Metro released preliminary projects recommendations for the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects seven (7) modal categories, and the FY 08-09 Supplemental Call. During May and June 2007, Metro received input from Metro's TAC, project sponsors, and at the Board Workshop the Board Received and Filed a report on 2007 Countywide Call and preliminary project recommendations.

In formulating its final funding recommendations, TAC motions, Metro Board comments, and public comments were reviewed. Recommended changes to the preliminary project recommendations are summarized in Attachment A.

On June 25, 2007, Metro received a letter from the City of La Canada Flintridge formally withdrawing their application, Project F1820 – Angeles Crest Highway Beautification Project in the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) modal category. The City applied for and received other federal funding for this project, and therefore, no longer required Metro funding. It is recommended that the \$406,000 that was previously recommended for the project identified above be reallocated to both the City of Downey Project F1810 – Imperial Highway Traffic Throughput and Safety Enhancements with \$203,000, and to the City of Santa Clarita Project F1829 – I-5/Lyons and SR-14/Sand Canyon Gateway Beautification with \$203,000. This recommendation would keep the reallocated funding in the same modal category as the withdrawn modal application, and provide additional funding for two high scoring projects that had previously been downscoped. The Cities of Downey and Santa Clarita have been contacted to determine their ability to provide additional local match for the increased grant amount. Both cities have agreed to increase their proportional local match.

### Goods Movement

Metro is recommending funding eleven (11) projects, evaluated and considered Goods Movement projects, in the Regional Surface Transportation Improvement Program and Signal Synchronization modal categories. Metro recommends using the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects funding for these projects so they can be competitive with regard to local match and regional support for the Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Program funding.

### Supplemental Funding Application

Metro recommends five (5) applications for supplemental funding totaling \$8.1 million to address funding shortages for existing projects submitted by City of Los Angeles for ATCS/ATCS projects.

### **Final Metro TAC Recommendations**

On July 11, 2007, Metro's TAC met to take final action on the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects programming recommendations. At this meeting, TAC concurred with staff recommendations for all 2007 Countywide Call for Projects modal categories, including the Supplemental Call, and made a motion to withdraw their May 22, 2007 motion regarding Goods Movement projects in the Regional Surface Transportation Improvements (RSTI) modal category, and approved a substitute motion to support staff recommendation and at the same time encourage local Goods Movement project sponsors whose projects are over \$10 million to apply for Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Program funding, should they be eligible, with support from Metro staff. Metro concurs with the TAC's recommendation on the RSTI goods movement projects.

On July 11, 2007, Metro's TAC also made a motion to support Metro recommendations for additional funding to both the City of Downey F1810 – Imperial Highway Traffic Throughput and Safety Enhancements with \$203,000, and to the City of Santa Clarita F1829 – I-5/Lyons and SR-14/Sand Canyon Gateway Beautification with \$203,000, by reallocating the \$406,000 that was recommended, and now withdrawn, from the La Canada Flintridge F1820 - Angeles Crest Highway Beautification Project. Metro concurs with the TAC's recommendation on the TEA modal category.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon Board approval of the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will formally be transmitted to SCAG and the CTC for processing. This same TIP will be amended into the 2008 STIP at the April 2008 CTC meeting.

Project sponsors will be notified of the final funding awarded by Metro and the sponsor's local match necessary to proportionally match awarded funds. A Metro sponsored workshop will be scheduled for October 2007 with successful project sponsors to review and discuss Metro/project sponsor administrative conditions, and federal, state and local programming requirements.

Through the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects development process, Metro acknowledges the opportunity to use federal and state funds to accelerate the programming of approved projects. Upon Board approval of the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects, Metro will notify successful project sponsors of the possibility for advancing federal and state funds to earlier years in the 2007 Call cycle. As part of this notification, instructions will be provided as to the deadline for submitting requests and the criteria Metro will use to evaluate the submittals. To provide all project sponsors equal access to earlier year funding, all requests will be evaluated concurrently after the submittal deadline. If more requests are received than available funds, project advancement will be based on the project's ranking as determined by its overall evaluation score and the readiness of the project for early delivery.

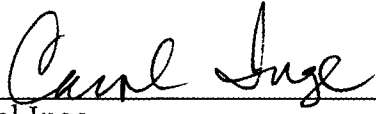
After Metro Board approval of the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects, the following schedule reflects the next steps.

Review Draft 2008 State TIP Fund Estimate by CTC	September, 2007
Metro Board Adoption of Call for Projects	July 26, 2007
Adoption of Final 2008 State TIP Fund Estimate by CTC	November, 2007
Final TIP Transmittal from Project Sponsors to Programming and Policy Analysis	September, 2007
Successful Project Sponsor Workshop	October, 2007
Final 2008 County TIP Transmittal to SCAG	December, 2007
Draft 2008 State TIP Projects List Due to SCAG and CTC	January, 2007
Final 2008 State TIP Projects Lists Due to SCAG and CTC	February, 2008
Adoption of 2008 State TIP Projects List by CTC	May, 2008
SCAG 2008 Regional TIP Approval	July, 2008
State Department of Transportation Federal TIP Approval	August, 2008
U.S. Department of Transportation Federal TIP Approval	October, 2008

## ATTACHMENTS

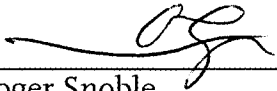
- A. Final Staff Recommendations resulting from Metro Board Workshop, TAC Motions, and Public Comment
- B. Metro 2007 Countywide Call for Projects Recommended Program of Projects
- C. Resolution Certifying to SCAG that Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Has the Resources to Fund the 2007 Countywide Call for Projects
- D. TAC 2007 Countywide Call for Projects Recommendations (July 11, 2007)
- E. Specific Recommendation Information
- F. Additional Background Information
- G. 2007 TIP Countywide Call for Projects Descriptions of Recommended Projects

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