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| **Friday, December 28, 2012121228-1****In this Issue:****Federal Transportation Administration Finalizes Changes to New Starts/Small Starts Program****Procurement Postings for Next Week** |
| **Federal Transportation Administration Finalizes Changes to New Starts/Small Starts Program**Yesterday, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced changes to the New Starts/Small Starts program meant to streamline administration of their key capital investment program for expanding transit systems. The changes also are based on comments received over the last two years from stakeholders nationwide, like our agency, that are interested in getting critical transit projects under construction more quickly. The following are some of the key changes that the FTA will be implementing with the objective to reduce paperwork and accelerate project delivery:1) Adopting a **simpler, more straightforward approach for measuring a proposed project’s cost-effectiveness based on number of passengers served;** 2) Expanding the **range of environmental benefits used to evaluate proposed projects, so that in addition to regional air quality designations, other considerations may be given to** the dollar value of the anticipated benefits to human health, energy use, air quality (including changes in total greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants), and safety (such as reductions in accidents and fatalities);3) Adding n**ew economic development factors to the ratings process, including whether local plans and policies maintain or increase affordable housing; and**4) **Streamlining the project evaluation process by reducing regulations and red tape that required detailed analysis of certain benefits that are unnecessary to justify a project.** The Final Rule on the program changes and accompanying revised proposed policy guidance are expected to be published in the Federal Register in early January 2013.  Countywide Planning and Development will be reviewing the Final Rule and the policy guidance to determine how best they may be used to provide federal funding opportunities for Los Angeles County transit projects.**Procurement Postings for Next Week**Electrical Cables for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project (IFB)Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) on Friday, December 28, 2012 to procure three types of electrical cables for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project. (Cables for the Westside extension are included as an option.) The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from December 28, 2012 through January 28, 2013. Metro is procuring these electrical cables to ensure compliance with the “Buy America Act” requirement stipulated in the Federal Grants and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act program. The cables will be delivered to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for utility work required for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project and if the option is exercised, for the Westside Rail Transit Project. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to, and may only be answered by, Deborah Spottsville, Senior Contracts Administrator at (213) 922-1040.Westside Subway Extension Project Construction Management Support Services (RFP)Procurement will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to firms interested in submitting a proposal for the Westside Subway Extension Project Construction Management Support Services Contract. The Contract is for the construction management support services for the heavy rail transit subway extension of the existing Purple Line from its current terminus at Wilshire/Western Station to a new Wilshire/La Cienega station. The extension will be approximately 3.9 miles and will include a total of three (3) new stations: Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, and Wilshire/La Cienega. The procurement blackout period is from December 28, 2012 through May 31, 2013. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Zachary Munoz, Senior Contract Administrator, (213) 922-7301, munozz@metro.net. |
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