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Metro News

Kim Upton /Joni Goheen
Metro Media Relations
213.922.2703/213.922.6931
metro.net/press/pressroom
mediarelations@metro.net
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Receives Unsolicited Proposal That Could Accelerate Several Measure M Projects *Metro also reviewing four additional mega project proposals*

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) today announced that it has received an unsolicited proposal that provides a unique approach to fund and accelerate some of its mega projects included in Measure M – Metro’s November ballot measure.

The proposal was submitted by Parker Infrastructure Partners and centers around a concept that provides flexibility to fund projects in different stages of progress with the goal of accelerating and improving project delivery. While the contents of the proposal are confidential at this time, the approach offers a chance to deliver multiple Measure M projects sooner than anticipated. The Parker proposal has moved through phase one of Metro’s unsolicited proposal review process, and is now moving into the detailed proposal phase.

“This is exactly what we were hoping for when we put out our call to the industry last February to be our partners in innovation,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “We are now seeing how the private sector responds when we empower them to do what they do best – optimize project delivery. This effort is totally market driven by the private sector, and our desire and intent is to rewrite the rules of strategic transportation infrastructure project delivery in L.A. County and this country.”

Metro has been paving the way to consider different ways of delivering projects through innovative thinking – the impetus behind the agency’s first major industry forum, *Transformation Through Transportation*, in February 2016. That’s when Metro officials invited the private sector to bring the agency their ideas for helping Metro deliver projects sooner than they are scheduled.

“This is the first major capital infrastructure proposal to come our way since we rolled out our new unsolicited proposal policy last February,” said Joshua Schank, Metro’s Chief Innovation Officer. “We’ve received nearly 50 proposals on various levels and for different ideas, but this one is the most ambitious thus far.”

Metro has also received three other unsolicited proposals for specific Measure M projects; each is undergoing initial review to see if they have technical and financial merit. They include a proposal from ACS to accelerate the West Santa Ana Branch Light Rail Project through a public-private partnership (P3) financing model; and two proposals from Skanska – one to accelerate the West Santa Ana Branch Rail Project through a P3, and another to accelerate Phase 3 of the Purple Line Extension to UCLA and the Veterans Administration campus.

In Measure M, Metro identifies other projects that are potential P3 candidates including the Crenshaw Northern Extension to West Hollywood, the High Desert Multi-Purpose Corridor in the North County, the 710 South Corridor and the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor.

“My desire is that these projects listed above be completed prior to our scheduled opening dates,” said Washington. “An example would be possibly completing the West Santa Ana Branch project by 2029.”

Metro is also reviewing a fourth proposal from Goldman Sachs to provide a regional network approach to develop and manage Metro’s High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. Metro expects to receive additional unsolicited proposals for mega projects in the coming weeks.

All of these proposals are dependent on Metro having an additional funding stream to leverage private dollars, either through Measure M or some future funding that is identified.

Metro is implementing a “shovel ready” plan to bring key transportation projects to a shovel ready state in the event that previously unforeseen funding becomes available. Also, Metro recently named Ernst & Young Infrastructure Advisors, LLC, a recognized authority in the U.S. public-private partnership infrastructure market, to help Metro select the best delivery methods for advancing its major transportation projects in L.A. County.

To learn more about Metro’s Measure M ballot measure, you can visit <http://theplan.metro.net>.

About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation’s transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.3 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County.

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