


**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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metro.net**PLANNING & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE****February 18, 2009****SUBJECT: 2009 CALL FOR PROJECTS****ACTION: APPROVE APPLICATION PACKAGE****RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the 2009 Call for Projects Application Package (sent to the Board under separate cover). 

ISSUE

We have initiated the 2009 Call for Projects process for Los Angeles County. The Call for Projects is a competitive grant process that co-funds new regionally significant capital projects and is typically held biennially in odd-numbered years. The 2009 Call for Projects will program funds in FY 2010 through FY 2015. Board approval is requested for the draft Application Package. This package provides the instructions and specific modal applications that will be used by potential project sponsors that wish to nominate projects for consideration. A PDF of the Draft 2009 Application Package was posted online on January 28th on our Call for Projects website. A hard-copy of the Draft 2009 Application Package was mailed to City Managers, Councils of Government, Public Works Directors, Municipal Operators, Transportation Directors, and other Interested Parties on February 2nd.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As the regional transportation planning agency for Los Angeles County, we are responsible for programming available local, state and federal funding on a timely basis. The Call for Projects implements our multi-modal programming responsibilities and the Board-adopted Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It provides critical funding for local agencies for needed transportation improvements that are beyond local agencies' capabilities that help implement the LRTP.

OPTIONS

On January 22nd, the Board initiated the 2009 Call for Projects for Los Angeles County. We have completed the Draft 2009 Call for Projects Application Package which is similar in format and content to prior Call Applications. At this time, the Board could modify the Draft 2009 Call for Projects Application Package. Any modifications would be distributed to

project sponsors in a final 2009 Call for Projects Application package in mid-March, notifying interested parties of any program changes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funds available for the 2009 Call for Projects come from three principal sources:

- Local Proposition C;
- Reauthorization of Federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and,
- Other funds to be determined.

The funding levels for the overall 2009 Call for Projects and for individual modal categories will not be determined until Spring 2009. These will be identified as part of the ongoing development of the LRTP update. We anticipate bringing preliminary funding marks to the Board in April 2009.

BACKGROUND

Work on the 2009 Call for Projects process began in August 2008. Our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and its subcommittees were consulted to develop the current Call for Projects application requirements. The Call for Projects will have seven modal categories. These categories and eligible projects within each category are identified in Attachment A.

The 2009 Call for Projects Application Package is similar to past Call applications. It contains new programming requirements resulting from lessons learned in previous Calls for Projects as well as new policy and programming actions from the Board, Caltrans and other agencies. The new program requirements that are highlighted in this Call Application Package include the following:

- 2009 Call for Projects Online Application: In addition to the two hard copies, a copy of Parts I, II and III must be provided on CD-R or DVD in Microsoft Word, Excel or PDF format.
- Audit Issues: Any outstanding audit issues must be resolved within 90 days of Board approval of the 2009 Call for Projects or the funds may be rescinded.
- Developer Responsibility: Failure to disclose a project that has been identified as the shared responsibility between a developer and local jurisdiction may result in the disqualification of the application.
- Federal and State Funding: The amount of funds available through this Call for Projects will be limited. Successful project applicants must meet all federal and state regulations and requirements if awarded these types of funds.

- **Goods Movement:** The Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan (MCGMAP) should be reviewed as it contains a full range of strategies and options (short, mid and long-term) that can be implemented for the region. The RSTI modal application has been modified to delineate between Goods Movement and non-Goods Movement projects.
- **Ineligible Applications:** Applications that do not follow the Call for Projects application process (e.g., incomplete or non-responsive to any questions) may be disqualified and not evaluated for funding.
- **Local Match Federal Funds Assignment:** If we assign federal funds to the project, and federal funds are already included as part of the local match, sponsors may be required to provide additional non-federal (cash) funds of 11.47% to match.
- **Right-of-Way:** The project applicant should coordinate with our Real Estate Department if the project is either adjacent to our property or requires us to provide a license for its use. The project applicant should not assume that funding for the project will include approval by our Real Estate Department for any license. The cost of any alterations to our right-of-way to make it usable for a project, including relocations or removal of existing structures, will be the responsibility of the project sponsor.
- **Project Readiness:** “Letters of support” should be included with the application package, not mailed separately to the CEO.
- **Real Estate Appraisal:** For in-kind matches of land, a Real Estate appraisal in compliance with Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) regulations will be required. The appraisal must be submitted with the complete application package, dated within six months prior to the date the application is due. Projects recommended for funding with in-kind match of land will be reviewed by our Real Estate Department.
- **Sustainability:** Consideration of the applicants’ sustainability policies and programs as they relate to the project has been added to the Land Use and Environmental Compatibility Criteria for each of the modal applications.

The passage of AB 32 and SB 375 will require the region to achieve significant, measurable environmental gains in the areas of energy and resource conservation and reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and vehicle emissions. Although specific goals mandated by the legislation are now in development, we strongly encourage 2009 Call for Projects applicants to integrate sustainability, including, for example, recycling, GHG and vehicle emission reductions, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reductions, integrated land use/transportation planning, and green technologies, into projects being submitted for Call for Projects funding.

In addition to the new program requirements, further clarification was provided for the following requirements:

- **Local Match:** If the project is approved for funding by the Board, the project sponsor’s local match must remain at the percentage committed to as part of the Board adoption.

- Call for Projects Funding Responsibility: The Board-approved 2009 Call for Projects funded amount serves as a cap on the amount of our funding through the life of the project. If total project costs increase, our funded amount will stay constant unless the Board takes action to change it. If, however, total project costs decrease, our proportionate share will decrease accordingly (i.e., if our contribution is 80% and costs decrease, the Call for Projects grant award will decrease to 80% of the new total project cost).
- Partial Funding: We reserve the right to partially fund a project grant request so long as the project remains feasible.

NEXT STEPS

Once the Board approves the draft Application Package, a supplemental package, if needed, will be distributed in mid-March to notify interested parties of any additional program changes.

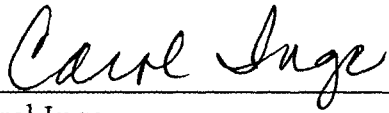
The highlights of the 2009 Call for Projects schedule are as follows:

- March 2009: Final Application Package Supplement, if necessary, released
- April 2009: Applications due
- April 2009: Preliminary Call for Projects funding marks presented for Board consideration
- June 2009: Complete preliminary project and funding recommendations
- July 2009: TAC conducts review and appeals process
- August 2009: Board to review and provide direction on recommendations. We report back to TAC
- September 2009: Board considers Call for Projects recommendations and makes funding decisions
- October 2009 – October 2010: Call for Projects programming decisions incorporated into state and federal Transportation Improvement Programs

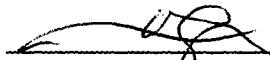
ATTACHMENTS

A. Modal Categories and Eligibility Criteria

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Modal Categories and Eligibility Criteria

Modal Application	Eligible Projects
Regional Surface Transportation Improvements	Major capital improvements and goods movement projects on regionally significant arterial highways which improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, such as: arterial widening, bottleneck intersection improvements, closure of gaps in the arterial system, grade separations, and other arterial improvements. Project must be on the public right-of-way. Rehabilitation, Restoration and Resurfacing (3R) are eligible as a component of a larger capacity-enhancing project.
Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements	Traffic signal synchronization, transit preferential treatment and priority systems, bottleneck intersection improvements, traffic control and monitoring systems, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).
Transportation Demand Management	Technology and/or innovation-based strategies, Ridesharing Incentive/Disincentive Programs, Parking Management Programs, Transportation Facilities Amenities, Commuter Service Centers, and New and Unique Demonstration Projects.
Bikeway Improvements	Regionally significant projects that provide access and mobility through bike-to-transit improvements, gap closures in the inter-jurisdictional bikeway network, bicycle parking, and first-time implementation of bike racks on buses.
Pedestrian Improvements	Pedestrian improvements that promote walking as a viable form of utilitarian travel, pedestrian safety, and an integral link within the overall transportation system.
Transit Capital	Bus capital, improvements or construction of transit stations, transit centers, park and ride lots, commuter rail stations, transit stop improvements and transit vehicle purchases.
Transportation Enhancement Activities	Acquisition of scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning and research, environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff, safety educational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists, reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality and establishment of transportation museums.