

## **VISIONARY PROJECT SEED FUNDING**

Measure M makes \$20 million available over 40 years (FY2018-FY2057) to be used for “Visionary Project Seed Funding.” This document provides a set of guidelines for how that funding will be distributed.

### **SUMMARY**

Metro’s Visionary Project Seed Funding will be leveraged to help spark and develop innovative concepts to be tested in Los Angeles County. The Seed Funding will be utilized as a tool to generate and develop concepts into actionable projects that can be implemented in the future, in addition to aiding in identifying potential funding streaming for implementation. Due to the limited amount of funding available and the aim to develop truly visionary projects, the funding will not be used for implementation.

To enable this program, Metro will enter into a contractual agreement with a consultant(s) to provide direct research and staff support to a grantee. Metro will solicit competitive applications for technical assistance awards. Eligible applicants will submit project concepts and/or problem statements for consideration for the award, which will be evaluated on a defined set of metrics. Consultants will be evaluated based on their ability to deliver on a broad range of projects. Consultants may consist of professionals from private companies, educational, and/or non-profit institutions.

The selected grantee will work with Metro and the contracted consultant to develop an innovation project plan for the duration of the term. The consultant will provide direct day-to-day support from an imbedded fellow who will work within the agency to help with general agency operations as well as conduct preliminary research to feed into the agreed upon innovation plan. At the conclusion of the pre-negotiated term, the consultant will be expected to deliver upon the agreed technical assistance plan.

Consultant contracts and grantee awards will be overseen by Metro.

### **AVAILABLE FUNDING**

\$500,000 available annually, with the option to renew.

### **SELECTION OF CONSULTANT**

Every three years, subject to reevaluation by the CEO, LA Metro will competitively solicit a technical assistance consultant for the purposes of this program. The contract will be made available for up to \$1.8 million per three year contract. The Visionary Project Seed Funding will be applied for \$1.5 million of the contract. The selected grantee will be required to cover 20 percent of the contract total annually.

Consultants will be selected based on their demonstrated expertise in transportation planning, engineering, and/or public policy academic research and their access to sufficient resources to deliver the contents of the contract.

### **SELECTION OF PARTNER AGENCIES**

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

LA Metro, Municipal Operators, Local Operators, Council of Governments are all eligible for consideration for this award. Eligible applicants may partner with private sector vendors, non-profits, or academic institutions. Private vendors need a public sector partner to be able to apply. Vendors who

submit unsolicited proposals that are particularly well suited for Visionary Seed funding will be directed to this opportunity.

### **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

Eligible applicants are asked to develop a technical assistance problem statement detailing a specific project concept or a problem statement that could benefit from technical assistance. Applicants will be expected to provide a clear narrative on the challenge/goal that their agency is facing and to develop a preliminary outline for out the agency would leverage the solicited technical assistance for improved outcomes.

Eligibility of defined projects is broad. Examples of potential categories the proposed technical assistance could address include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Safety or security improvements
- Substantial improvements in travel time and customer experience
- Major reductions in emissions or other environmental externalities
- Improvements in access for disadvantaged populations
- Connectivity to major trip generators
- Use of new and innovative technology solutions, beyond transit solutions
- Reduction of project costs compared to conventional delivery methods

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

In selecting the grantee for the Visionary Project Program, a selected LA Metro team of reviewers will evaluate the following criteria:

1. **IMPACT AND OUTCOMES.** Applicants are expected to identify goals that their technical assistance program seeks to achieve for Los Angeles County.
2. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION.** Applicants will be evaluated based on the clarity of the problem identification that they are seeking to solve by means of the Visionary Project Seed Funding. High scoring applications will thoughtfully develop a problem statement and methodology for exploration during the Visionary Project Program term.
3. **TEAM CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT.** Applicants will be expected to detail the team and its capacity to facilitate and manage the project during the three-year term.

### **COST SHARING OR MATCHING**

The grant funded share of this project is 50 percent. Agencies experiencing fiscal hardship may propose alternative approaches for achieving their 50 percent contribution. Additionally, agencies may choose to provide a cost share match above 50 percent to expand the scope of their Visionary Project. Grant terms will be adjusted based on the project that is selected.

### **RESERVE/CARRYOVER REQUIREMENTS**

Metro's goal will be to spend or allocate these funds in a timely manner. However, Metro may reserve or carryover some or all of its allocation to the next fiscal year if necessary. Metro will begin the process of procuring a vendor and developing a notice of funding availability upon approval by the CEO.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Metro will provide annual reports to the Measure M Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee describing how uses of Measure M Visionary Project Seed funds are contributing to accomplishing the program objectives.

**AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

Use of these funds will be subject to audit and oversight as determined by Measure M and all other applicable state and local laws. Metro will retain all documents and records related to this program and the use of funds for a period of three years after the year in which the funds are expended.

**REVISIONS TO PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

These program guidelines may be revised by the Metro Board of Directors.