

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

**2013 Transportation Improvement Program
Call for Projects**

APPENDIX J

**MTA'S SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS**

Sustainable Design Elements

In the 2011 Call for Projects, applicants received points for reducing the construction-related and long-term environmental impacts of projects by incorporating sustainable design elements. Examples of sustainable design elements included green street features, drought tolerant landscaping, and energy efficient lighting. Most projects scored well in this category, as many jurisdictions have been proactively pursuing sustainable design alternatives for the last few decades to meet community objectives, comply with federal and state laws, and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Given the evolution of sustainable design and the advancement of local, state, and federal legislation, as well as established best practices and methodologies, sustainable design is no longer included as an evaluation criterion in the 2013 Call for Projects, but rather a requirement for program funding. **All projects funded in the 2013 Call for Projects will be required to consider sustainable design elements.** To meet this requirement, successful project sponsors must complete the following activities:

- 1. Attend MTA-hosted training on sustainable design.** Successful project sponsors will be required to attend a mandatory training on sustainable design in the fall preceding the project's first year of funding. MTA staff will reach out to all affected project sponsors to ensure they are aware and able to send appropriate staff to the training.
- 2. Develop a Sustainable Design Plan** that includes a list of the sustainable design performance outcomes the project sponsors commit to achieve. The plan will be included as an attachment to the scope of work in the funding agreement. The plan will be deemed in compliance with this requirement if it contains the following:
 - a.** A commitment to all of MTA's Recommended Sustainable Design Performance Metrics, as applicable to the scope of work, and a description of how the project sponsor will achieve each metric.
 - b.** A commitment to an alternative set of performance metrics, proposed by the project sponsor and approved by MTA, that exceeds business-as-usual performance in the following areas: energy and water use; waste reduction; stormwater management; and reduction of urban heat island effects, as applicable to the scope of work. For example, if the project does not add or replace landscaping, then a metric for reducing water-use would not be required. In addition to establishing an alternative set of performance metrics, the plan must include a description of how the project sponsor will achieve each metric. Resource documents that will support project sponsors in selecting applicable metrics follow.
- 3. Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Design Plan.** As part of the project closeout, project sponsors will be required to certify that the Sustainable Design Plan has been completed. MTA will provide a template for documentation.

MTA's Recommended Sustainable Design Performance Metrics

When consistent with the scope of work, the following performance metrics shall be applied:

- All lighting systems installed as part of the project will comply with safety requirements applicable to the project and also exceed the current efficiency requirements included in the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Part 6) by at least 10%¹.
- Landscaping (plants and irrigation) funded as part of the project will be designed to achieve at least 50% reduction in water demand, as determined by the methodology of the California Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance or a local ordinance that utilizes an equivalent approach².
- Projects adding or replacing impermeable surfaces will incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) strategies, as feasible, that are consistent with the best practices established by the EPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board³.
- Building materials and infrastructure purchased for the project will contain a minimum of 20% recycled content (by cost) including, roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, unit paving, curbs, base and subbase materials for the preceding items, and streetscape items including benches, light poles, tree grates, bike racks, and signage⁴.
- Projects that add new or replace paving will either include a) Shading of at least 50% of paved surfaces with structures or canopy trees (assuming the size after five years of growth), or b) use paving materials with a Solar Reflective Index (SRI) value of 29 or greater⁵.
- Projects that add new or replace paving will use low-energy material (as defined by the FHWSA Sustainable Highways Self-Evaluation Tool) for at least 50 percent of the total project pavement material by weight⁶.

¹ <http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/>

² <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>

³ <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/green/index.cfm> and
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/low_impact_development/index.shtml

⁴ <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=148>

⁵ http://www.epa.gov/heatisd/images/extra/level3_pavingproducts.html

⁶ <http://www.sustainablehighways.org/>

Additional items that are encouraged for inclusion in the Sustainable Design Plan, but not required are:

- Installation of energy capture systems, such as photovoltaic devices, for transit centers, park and ride facilities, or other structures.
- Use of recycled water, greywater, or captured rainwater for landscape irrigation.
- Solid waste management infrastructure, such as recycling containers adjacent to trash receptacles.
- LEED certification of buildings and/or neighborhood development.

Performance Metrics Resource Documents

Project sponsors that chose to propose an alternative set of performance metrics for inclusion in the Sustainable Design Plan are encouraged to consider the following sources.

- FHWA Sustainable Highways Self-Evaluation Tool.
<http://www.sustainablehighways.org/>
- LEED for Neighborhood Development Rating System.
<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=2122>
- Caltrans "Main Streets for Travelers and Communities."
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/download/>
- Model Design Manual for Living Streets
<http://modelstreetdesignmanual.com/>