



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
APRIL 18, 2012**

SUBJECT: 2013 COUNTYWIDE CALL FOR PROJECTS

ACTION: INITIATE PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Approve the following actions for the 2013 Countywide Call for Projects (Call):
1. Recommended changes to 2013 Call process;
 2. Add \$170,000 to the FY 13 budget for the Information Technology Services (ITS) Department to develop and maintain the on-line application;
 3. Initiate the 2013 Call process; and
- B. Receive and file this report on the 2011 Call for Projects Survey.

ISSUE

At its February meeting, the Board directed us to report back in April on how to integrate the Measure R Highway "equity" funds into the Call for Projects and on initiating the 2013 Call for Projects process. This Board Report responds to this directive.

DISCUSSION

Background

The Call implements some of our multi-modal programming responsibilities. Specifically, it provides critical dollars for local agencies to fund needed regionally significant transportation improvements beyond their own capabilities. Further, it helps implement our Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). We are required by federal statute (Title 23 U.S.C. 134 (g) & (h)) and state statute (P.U.C. 130303) to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Los Angeles County. The TIP allocates revenues across all surface transportation modes based on Los Angeles County's mobility needs and the planning requirements of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) and Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

The 2013 Call programs funds in FY 2014 through FY 2019. The preliminary fund estimate for the 2013 Call is approximately \$150 million. This estimate draws from a combination of the November 10, 2011 LRTP Financial Update and from the April 2011 TIP Priority setting process. This amount is typically revisited by the Board later in the Call development process and prior to releasing our Preliminary Funding Recommendations. While this funding could be used for other capital improvements, including Measure R projects, we recommend using it for the 2013 Call as it is identified as part of Los Angeles County's overall transportation program in the Board-adopted 2009 LRTP. Additionally, with the economic downturn, combined with the ongoing structural deficit in the State of California budget, this source of transportation funding is critical for local jurisdictions.

The funds are forecasted to come from various sources including:

- Propositions C 10% and 25%;
- State Repayment of Capital Project Loans;
- Federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and
- Other funds to be determined.

The 2013 Call funds projects in eight modal categories:

- Regional Surface Transportation Improvements;
- Goods Movement Improvements;
- Signal Synchronization and Bus Speed Improvements;
- Transportation Demand Management;
- Bikeway Improvements;
- Pedestrian Improvements;
- Transit Capital; and
- Transportation Enhancements.

2011 Call for Projects Survey Results

Upon adoption of the 2011 Call by the Board on September 22, 2011, we distributed a survey soliciting input on the Call process and application package (Attachment A). The survey was mailed to Call applicants, TAC and its Subcommittees' members.

A total of 42 individuals responded to our survey. The survey found that:

- 93% of respondents are, at a minimum, "satisfied" with the process (Attachment B);
- 94% of respondents feel that the Call process, application package and schedule has "stayed about the same" or "improved" over time;
- respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the online application, time allotted to complete the application, and the schedule;

- 100% of TAC and its Subcommittees' members that responded (those individuals most closely involved with the Call process) are, at a minimum, "satisfied" with the Call process (Attachment C); and
- 95% of TAC and its Subcommittees' members feel that the Call process, application package and schedule has "stayed about the same" or "improved" over time.

Recommended Changes to the Call Process

Based on the survey respondents' comments, we are recommending the following changes:

- Initiate the process four months earlier (in April rather than August) to allow additional time for potential applicants to complete their applications and avoid the holiday timeframe;
- Collaborate with ITS on refining the online application to simplify the process for applicants—an additional \$170,000 in the FY 13 budget will allow for the purchase of two additional server licenses to minimize errors and delays in printing as well as an additional consultant, for up to four months, to supplement ITS staff resources; and
- Conduct additional outreach to local agency staff to keep them apprised of the process and schedule.

Measure R Highway Subfund

At the February 2012 Board meeting, the Board approved a motion to allow the use of Measure R Highway "equity" funds as a source of local match in future Calls. Changes will be made to the following sections of the application package to reflect the use of these funds:

- Overview - New and Important Program Requirements;
- Part II – Project Financial Plan, Project Funding Sources (applicants will be asked to identify Measure R Highway Subfunds as a separate line item in local match); and
- Part III – Modal Application, Local Match Evaluation Criteria.

In addition, we will ensure that projects specifying Measure R Highway Subfunds are included on the project lists approved by the Council of Governments (COG) and our Board, as current at the time the application is submitted.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

The 2013 Call will not have any adverse safety impacts for our employees and patrons.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding of \$150 million for this program will be included in the FY 14 through FY 19 budget. Since this is a multi-year program, the cost center manager and Executive Director, Countywide Planning will be accountable for budgeting the cost in future years.

Upon approval by the Board, the \$170,000 for ITS resource needs will be funded in the FY 13 budget in Cost Center 4220, Long Range Planning, Project Number 405510, Other Planning.

Impact to Budget

The source of funds for the 2013 Call comes from various sources including, Propositions C 10% and 25%, State Loan Repayment, SAFETEA-LU (Congestion Management and Air Quality and Regional Surface Transportation Program), Proposition C 10%, Proposition C 25% and STIP-TEA are not eligible for Metro bus and rail operating and capital expenditures.

Both sources of CMAQ and State Repayment of Capital Project Loan funds are eligible for operating purposes or transit capital. With respect to CMAQ funding, there are no additional operating expenses eligible other than those already funded. CMAQ funds can also be used for transit capital purposes. Los Angeles County must strive to fully obligate its share of CMAQ funding by May 1st of each year, otherwise we risk its redirection to other California Regional Transportation Planning Agencies by Caltrans. This risk increases as we approach the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30, 2013. We recommend the use of long-lead-time CMAQ funds as planned to ensure utilizing our federal funds. While State Repayment of Capital Project loans could conceptually be used for operating purposes, we do not recommend it since such uses would be inconsistent with the purpose of the State grants involved in the loan arrangements.

RSTP funds in this action could be used for our transit capital needs. Also, while these funds cannot be used directly for our bus or rail operating needs, they could free-up other such operating eligible funds by exchanging the funds used for our paratransit provider, Access Services Incorporated. Since these RSTP funds originate in the Highway portion (Title 23) of SAFETEA-LU, they are among the most flexible funds available to us. We do not recommend these exchanges since they are inconsistent with the funding strategies and assumptions in the LRTP.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could postpone initiation of the 2013 Call or defer it entirely. Postponing the 2013 Call is not recommended because funds are expected to be available and we are initiating the Call earlier than usual to address the concerns raised by potential applicants. Deferring the 2013 Call is not recommended because funds are expected to be available and some allocation process is necessary so that we may fulfill our

statutory transportation programming responsibilities. For example, we would not be positioned to submit the statutorily required 2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Los Angeles County to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by the required deadline. Los Angeles County's State TIP funding priorities will be set for the six-year period ending in FY 19 and the Call is our established process for that purpose.

NEXT STEPS

We will meet regularly with our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to keep them informed and gather their input. Upon Board approval of the initiation of the Call, we will take the following steps:

Release Draft Application Package	August 2012
Board Approval of Draft Application	September 2012
Preliminary Funding Marks Presented for Board consideration	Spring 2013
Board Review of Preliminary Recommendations	May 2013
Preliminary Recommendations Available (general distribution)	June 2013
TAC Appeals	July 2013
Board Consideration of Recommendations based on TAC Input	August 2013
Final Board Adoption of Call	September 2013

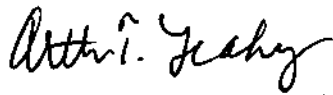
ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2011 Call for Projects Survey
- B. 2011 Call for Projects Survey Results (All respondents)
- C. 2011 Call for Projects Survey Results (TAC and its Subcommittees' Members Only)

Prepared by: Rena Lum, Transportation Planning Manager, Long Range Planning
Toye Oyewole, Transportation Planning Manager, Regional Programming
Fanny Pan, Transportation Planning Manager, Transportation
Development & Implementation



Martha Welborne, FAIA
Executive Director, Countywide Planning



Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

2011 CALL FOR PROJECTS SURVEY

1. The MTA Call for Projects allocates discretionary transportation capital funds for regionally significant projects proposed by local jurisdictions, Caltrans, and other public agencies. Has your agency submitted a Call for Projects application during the last ten years?

Yes *No*

1a. If your agency has not submitted an application, why not?

Lack of Knowledge *Lack of Local Match* *Lack of Staff* *Lack of Projects*

Other _____

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the Call for Projects process?

Very Satisfied *Satisfied* *Dissatisfied* *Very Dissatisfied*

3. Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of the Call for Projects application process.

	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>
Application package	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time allotted for completing application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mailed communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Applicant workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Application evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appeals process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



4. Do you believe the MTA's Call for Projects process, application package and schedule has improved, or not improved?

- Improved greatly*
- Improved a little*
- Stayed about the same*
- Gotten worse*
- Gotten much worse*

4a. If you believe the process, application, or schedule has not improved, please explain.

5. Please identify specific improvements that you would recommend to the Call for Projects application process.

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions which you feel would improve the Call for Projects?

Optional Information:

Name of Preparer: _____ City/Agency: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you a member of MTA's:

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Bus Operations Subcommittee
- Transportation Demand Management/Air Quality Subcommittee
- Local Transit Systems Subcommittee
- Streets & Freeways Subcommittee

Please return this form to: Rena Lum, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-23-02, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932



**2011 Call for Projects
Survey Results
Applicants, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Sub-Committee Members**

QUESTION 1	Yes	No
The MTA Call for Projects allocates discretionary transportation capital funds for regionally significant projects proposed by local jurisdictions, Caltrans, and other public agencies. Has your agency submitted a Call for Projects application during the last ten years?	41	1

QUESTION 1a	Lack of Knowledge	Lack of Local Match	Lack of Staff	Lack of Projects	Other
If your agency has not submitted an application, why not?	1	1			

QUESTION 2	Very Satisfied (4)	Satisfied (3)	Dissatisfied (2)	Very Dissatisfied (1)
Overall, how satisfied are you with the Call for Projects process?	30%	63%	7%	0%

QUESTION 3	Very Satisfied (4)	Satisfied (3)	Dissatisfied (2)	Very Dissatisfied (1)	N/A or blank
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Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of the Call for Projects application process.

(weighted average)

excluded

Application package	41%	56%	3%	0%
Online application	7%	18%	74%	1%
Time allotted for completing application	24%	55%	19%	2%
Mailed communication	41%	57%	1%	0%
Electronic communication	49%	48%	3%	0%
Applicant workshops	44%	54%	2%	1%
Website	34%	51%	12%	3%
Application evaluation	35%	59%	6%	0%
Appeals process	38%	54%	8%	1%
Schedule	23%	65%	10%	2%
total average	34%	52%	14%	1%

QUESTION 4	Improved Greatly (5)	Improved a Little (4)	Stayed about the same (3)	Gotten Worse (2)	Much Worse (1)
Do you believe the MTA's Call for Projects process, application package and schedule has improved, or not improved?	21%	50%	23%	6%	0%

**2011 Call for Projects
Survey Results
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) & Sub-Committee Members**

QUESTION 1	Yes	No
The MTA Call for Projects allocates discretionary transportation capital funds for regionally significant projects proposed by local jurisdictions, Caltrans, and other public agencies. Has your agency submitted a Call for Projects application during the last ten years?	11	0

QUESTION 1a	Lack of Knowledge	Lack of Local Match	Lack of Staff	Lack of Projects	Other
If your agency has not submitted an application, why not?	1	1			

QUESTION 2	Very Satisfied (4)	Satisfied (3)	Dissatisfied (2)	Very Dissatisfied (1)
Overall, how satisfied are you with the Call for Projects process?	23%	77%	0%	0%

QUESTION 3	Very Satisfied (4)	Satisfied (3)	Dissatisfied (2)	Very Dissatisfied (1)	N/A or blank
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Please rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of the Call for Projects application process.

<i>(weighted average)</i>					<i>excluded</i>
Application package	47%	53%	0%	0%	
Online application	14%	86%	0%	0%	
Time allotted for completing application	0%	78%	22%	0%	
Mailed communication	25%	75%	0%	0%	
Electronic communication	36%	64%	0%	0%	
Applicant workshops	40%	60%	0%	0%	
Website	0%	93%	7%	0%	
Application evaluation	48%	45%	6%	0%	
Appeals process	35%	65%	0%	0%	
Schedule	26%	68%	6%	0%	
total average	27%	69%	4%	0%	

QUESTION 4	Improved Greatly (5)	Improved a Little (4)	Stayed about the same (3)	Gotten Worse (2)	Gotten Much Worse (1)
Do you believe the MTA's Call for Projects process, application package and schedule has improved, or not improved?	26%	62%	8%	5%	0%