

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: October 25, 2023

To: Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Honorable Heather Hutt, Chair, Transportation Committee

From: Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager 
Department of Transportation

Subject: **2023 REAP 2.0 County Transportation Commision Partnership Program Grant Funding for First/Last Mile Revolution: Transforming Metro Connections to Housing and Connecting Communities with Stress Free Connections Projects**

SUMMARY

LADOT partnered with Metro to submit two grant applications to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2023 REAP 2.0 County Transportation Commision Partnership (CTC) Program: 1) First/Last Mile Revolution: Transforming Metro Connections to Housing (FLM); and 2) Connecting Communities with Stress Free Connections (SFC). SCAG awarded the FLM and SFC projects a total of \$6.3 million from the CTC Partnership Program. LADOT requests authorization to accept the funding and execute agreements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. AUTHORIZE LADOT to execute agreements with lead grantee, Metro, to carry out the SFC and FLM projects, subject to agreement from the City Attorney;
2. AUTHORIZE LADOT to accept grant funds in an amount up to \$6.3 million from the 2023 CTC Partnership Grant Program through lead grantee, Metro; and
3. AUTHORIZE LADOT to establish a new appropriation account in the amount of \$1,030,000 for the First/Last Mile Revolution: Transforming Metro Connections to Housing (FLM) project and \$4,412,000 for Connecting Communities with Stress Free Connections within the Transportation Grant Fund No. 655, Department 94, as a front-funding source for this reimbursable grant.

BACKGROUND

The Southern California Association of Governments received \$246 million in funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) through the Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0). On April 12, 2023, SCAG issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announcing they would award \$80 million of this REAP 2.0 funding competitively through the CTC Partnership Grant Program, a new program open only to the region's six County Transportation Commissions. The CTC for jurisdictions within Los Angeles County is Los Angeles Metro (Metro).

This funding is a key part of the state's strategic investments toward a more sustainable, resilient, and

inclusive future. The Program is an opportunity to advance innovative, multimodal, and shovel-ready transportation planning and implementation activities that can be delivered in a relatively short time frame, by December 2025. LADOT partnered with Metro to submit the FLM and SFC grant applications. Council File (CF) 23-0619 provided authority to apply for the 2023 CTC Partnership Program Grant. On July 7, 2023, SCAG awarded LADOT and Metro \$5,250,000 for the SFC project and \$1,050,000 for the FLM project totalling \$6.3 million. The 2023 REAP 2.0 grant program timeline is as follows:

- NOFO Release Date: April 12, 2023
- Due date: May 9, 2023
- Award Date: July 7, 2023
- Performance Period: Final work and invoices submitted through December 31, 2025

DISCUSSION

Metro and LADOT partnered to apply from REAP 2.0 grant funds and were awarded funding to implement the following projects:

- First/Last Mile Revolution: Transforming Metro Connections to Housing (FLM)

The First/Last Mile Revolution project invests in critical transit-supportive infrastructure to support Metro's transit customers and growing transit network. The average Metro rider's annual household income is approximately \$19,000, compared to \$76,000 for the average person in Los Angeles County, and ninety percent of Metro's riders walk, bike, or roll to and from transit stations. Investing in first last mile transit connections supports millions of the most burdened residents in Los Angeles County who depend on safe, connected, reliable transportation to access jobs, schools, and opportunities.

Metro, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, adopted first last mile conceptual plans for the Purple Line Extension (PLE) Sections 2 & 3, the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Corridor, and various additional transit corridors. The conceptual plans identify priority active transportation access and safety improvements connecting to Metro stations. This project advances those conceptual plans to future project development stages by funding engagement, design, and preliminary engineering phases for up to 10 priority stations.

The project will plan for infrastructure investments within a half-mile walkshed and 3-mile bikeshed around station areas, including new and repaired sidewalks, bus shelters, protected bike lanes, and new signalized crossings. This effort will prepare LADOT and Department of Public Works agencies to seek future infrastructure funding to implement permanent FLM investments.

- Connecting Communities with Stress Free Connections

LADOT's Stress Free Connections project invests in safety and connectivity in Mid City West, South Los Angeles, and Central Los Angeles. This grant award will fund design and construction of up to 10 "Toucan" traffic signals in these communities. A "Toucan" is a traffic signal where 'two can' cross at the same time, allowing pedestrians and bicyclists safe and convenient ways of accessing key destinations.

This project will connect approximately 20 miles of neighborhood streets currently bisected by

high stress intersections without safe crossing points.

Roles and Responsibilities

LADOT will procure consultants to lead project phases in order to expand existing staff capacity within LADOT and partner agencies. LADOT staff will oversee the consultant teams and submit invoices and quarterly progress reports to Metro. As a pass-through agency, Metro will process submitted invoices, submit invoices to SCAG, and issue reimbursement payments to LADOT.

FISCAL IMPACT

Applicants may request reimbursement for expenses incurred from the date of the opening of the CTC Partnership Program Call for Projects. There are no local match requirements.

LC:TC:RG:sm/kv