


**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: April 9, 2024

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

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

Subject: **METRO OPEN STREETS GRANT PROGRAM – CYCLE FIVE**

**SUMMARY**

On June 8, 2023, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) released a notice of funding availability for Open Streets Program Grant Cycle Five. On August 2, 2023, the Los Angeles City Council authorized the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to apply for funding from Metro for execution of Open Streets programming in the City of Los Angeles from January 2024 through December 2025 (Council File [No: 23-0790](#)). On January 25, 2024, Metro Board of Directors adopted Metro's Planning and Programming Committee report with recommendation to award grant amounts to the City of Los Angeles for seven events totaling **\$2,283,578**.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council, subject to concurrence by the Mayor:

1. AUTHORIZE LADOT to accept the awards for the Cycle Five of the Metro Open and Slow Streets Program from Metro in the amount of \$2,283,578, and submit any other necessary agreements and contractual documents relative to the implementation of each individual grant award, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
2. AUTHORIZE LADOT to enter into a letter of agreement with each partner agency delivering Open Streets events that travel through the City of Los Angeles jurisdiction, including the cities of West Hollywood and Culver City, in order to facilitate grant funding dispersal and ensure event coordination.
3. AUTHORIZE LADOT to commit to provide the minimum required local match of up to \$570,895 through in-kind match for projects for which the City of Los Angeles is the Lead Agency, and up to \$180,000 for which the City of Los Angeles is a partner agency, in Fiscal Years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026.
4. AUTHORIZE the Controller to deposit Metro grant reimbursements for all Open Streets Program awards in Measure M Local Return Fund No. 59C, and appropriate therefrom into accounts associated with the Open Streets Program, including to appropriate up to \$4,333,578 in Measure M Local Return Fund (No. 59C-94) to Account No. 94YD10 titled

“Open Streets Program” to reflect the total grant reimbursements to be received from Metro for Open Streets events throughout FY 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26.

5. AUTHORIZE LADOT to make any technical adjustments or clarifications as necessary and consistent with the intent of this report, subject to the approval of the Office of the City Administrative Officer; and AUTHORIZE the City Controller to implement these instructions.

## **BACKGROUND**

Open Streets events bring together Angelenos to enjoy city streets by temporarily transforming or activating them into car-free public spaces to bike, walk, skate, and roll. The events promote community exploration, active transportation, public health, and social and civic engagement. Since 2010, the City of Los Angeles has successfully planned and delivered many open streets events in partnership with CicLAvia, a non-profit contractor, and community-based organizations. Each event provides an opportunity for creative programming and the celebration of streets as community hubs.

LADOT is committed to the sustainability and growth of Open Streets programming, which transforms streets into public space to connect communities. LADOT aims to develop new routes each year to bring Open Streets to more communities across Los Angeles and to expand the types of programming featured.

LADOT has limited internal resources or staff to establish new program types without the support of contracted production partners. In 2022, LADOT issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) through a competitive bidding process. The RFP solicited proposals to develop, manage, and deliver Open Streets programming throughout the City for a three-year contract period beginning in 2022 and ending in 2025, with the option to extend for one additional year. The RFP defined three program areas:

- 1) Major Program events of at least four miles;
- 2) Neighborhood Program events of at least one mile route; and
- 3) Community-Based Open Streets Activations

LADOT selected the contractor CicLAvia, Inc. for Program Areas 1 and 2. A second contractor, Alta Planning + Design, successfully bid to deliver Program Area 3 events, including Play Street program activations (CF-21-0912-S1).

LADOT has partnered with CicLAvia to deliver the City's Open Streets programming since 2013. Since 2021, LADOT and CicLAvia have delivered 50 events across Los Angeles communities, with 19 of those receiving funding from Metro.

## **DISCUSSION**

LADOT has participated in Metro Open Streets Cycles One, Two, Three, and Four. In Cycle Five, LADOT applied as lead agency for 14 events and has been awarded for seven of those events. LADOT also committed to collaborate with other jurisdictions on two events that successfully competed for Metro funding: “Meet the Hollywoods,” for which City of West Hollywood is the lead applicant; and “Culver City Meets Venice,” led by the City of Culver City.

According to Metro's program guidelines, Cycle Five of the Open Streets and Slow Streets Grant Program aims to provide the residents of Los Angeles County, particularly those in Equity Focus Communities (EFCs), with the opportunity to walk, bike, or roll in their neighborhoods.

#### Cycle 5 Applications

On June 8, 2023, Metro released a notice of funding availability for Open Streets Program Grant Cycle Five, with applications due on August 29, 2023, open to Los Angeles County city and county jurisdictions as well as Councils of Government. According to the program guidelines, each event application could request up to \$500,000 in Metro funding, not including the required commitment to a 20% local match or in kind contribution.

On August 2, 2023, the Los Angeles City Council authorized the LADOT to apply for the Cycle Five funding (Council File No: 23-0790).

Each of the awarded Los Angeles City applications received a score above 80, exceeding the required 70/100 points to be eligible for funding. However, Metro staff recommended that the Metro Board limit funding awards to 80% of the grant request for all jurisdictions that have previously received Metro OS funding for five or more events. Because the City of Los Angeles has previously been funded for more than five events, each successful LADOT-led application received a reduced award. LADOT's applications requested a total of \$2,854,474 for the seven events, of which Metro granted \$2,283,578.

LADOT program staff worked with CicLAvia to develop route proposals based on Metro's criteria of prioritizing communities of highest impact on the MADE index, and with the goal of reaching underserved communities and communities where Vision Zero Priority Corridors, Active Transportation project areas, and other LADOT programs are located, including South LA, Wilmington, the San Fernando Valley, MacArthur Park, Koreatown, and other areas.

Seven LADOT-led applications scored under 70 in Metro's evaluation of proposals. These included six CicLAvia partnership events and one application to deliver engagement programming in support of the Reconnecting MacArthur Park initiative in collaboration with Council District 1. These programs will require additional funding to move forward.

#### Multi-Jurisdictional Events

In addition to applying as the lead agency for events taking place within the City of Los Angeles, LADOT is partnering with neighboring cities to co-sponsor Open Streets Major Program Route events that include City of Los Angeles neighborhoods. In Cycle Five, LADOT partnered with the cities of West Hollywood, and Culver City, which will serve as the lead agencies for their applications. Metro awarded \$400,000 in funding to West Hollywood's event and \$500,000 in funding to Culver City's event. LADOT will request grant funds proportionate to the share of each route occurring in the City of Los Angeles, and will be required to provide proportionate in-kind or local match of 20% for awarded events.

Open Streets Program Funding

The 2023-24 Adopted Budget appropriated \$1 million in the Local Transportation Fund and \$500,000 in the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Trust Fund for this Open Streets Program. A subsequent funding swap (C.F. 23-0842-S1) and reappropriation of funds (C.F. 22-0600-S104) was approved by Council, which moved funding from the Local Transportation Fund and Mobile Air Pollution Reduction Trust Fund to the Measure M Local Return Fund. A total of \$1.5 million was appropriated in FY 2024 in the Measure M Local Return Fund for the Open Streets Program (Fund 59C, Account 94YD10). The current appropriation request of up to \$4,333,578 includes grant reimbursements to be received for Open Streets Program Cycle 4 and Cycle 5.

The City of Los Angeles intends to provide in-kind support to contribute to the required local match, including costs associated with planning, permitting, safety, and traffic control. The grant funding requirement of 20 percent local or in-kind funding match for the Open Streets Program Cycle Five will be funded by \$1.5 million in the Measure M Local Return Fund.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact to the General Fund. Open Streets events are largely funded through grants and special funds. Additionally, LADOT requests funding annually through the City's budget process for portions of the program that are not grant-funded, via the City's Measure M Local Return Fund.

LRC:mp:CE

Attachment A: City of LA Applications for Metro Open Streets Cycle 5

## ATTACHMENT A

<b>LADOT &amp; Partner Agency Applications for Metro Open Streets Program Cycle 5</b>							
<b><u>Tentative Date</u></b>	<b><u>FY</u></b>	<b><u>Open Streets Route</u></b>	<b><u>CD</u></b>	<b><u>Grant Amount Requested</u></b>	<b><u>Grant Amount Awarded</u></b>	<b><u>Lead City Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Equity Focus Communities per Metro</u></b>
2/25/2024	23-24	CicLAvia- Melrose	5	\$373,079	Not awarded	Los Angeles	No
4/21/2024	23-24	CicLAvia- Venice Blvd	11, 5	\$425,079	\$340,063	Los Angeles	Yes
5/19/2024	23-24	CicLAmmini- Wilmington	15	\$245,079	Not awarded	Los Angeles	Yes
6/23/2024	23-24	CicLAvia- South LA (Western Ave)	8	\$373,079	\$298,463	Los Angeles	Yes
8/18/2024	24-25	CicLAvia- Meets the Hollywoods	4, 13	\$500,000	\$400,000	West Hollywood	Yes
9/1/2024	24-25	Reconnecting MacArthur Park Open Streets	1	\$340,000	Not awarded	Los Angeles	Yes
9/15/2024	24-25	CicLAmmini- Lincoln Heights	1, 14	\$245,079	Not awarded	Los Angeles	Yes
10/13/2024	24-25	CicLAvia- Heart of LA	13, 1, 14	\$405,079	\$324,063	Los Angeles	Yes
12/2/2024	24-25	CicLAvia- The Valley (Ventura Blvd)	4, 2	\$425,079	Not awarded	Los Angeles	No
2/23/2025	24-25	CicLAvia- SouthLA (Jefferson Blvd)	8, 10	\$373,079	\$298,463	Los Angeles	Yes
4/13/2025	24-25	CicLAvia- Koreatown meets Hollywood	10, 5, 1, 13, 14	\$373,079	\$298,463	Los Angeles	Yes
5/18/2025	24-25	CicLAmmini- Northridge	15	\$245,079	Not awarded	Los Angeles	No
6/25/2025	24-25	CicLAvia- South LA (Leimert Park meets Watts)	8, 9	\$500,000	\$400,000	Los Angeles	Yes
8/17/2025	25-26	CicLAvia- Culver meets Venice	11	\$500,000	\$500,000	Culver City	Yes
9/14/2025	25-26	CicLAmmini- Pico	1, 10	\$245,079	Not awarded	Los Angeles	Yes
10/12/2025	25-26	CicLAvia- Heart of LA	1, 14	\$405,079	\$324,063	Los Angeles	Yes
<b>Total for City of LA-led events</b>				<b>\$2,854,474</b>	<b>\$2,283,578</b>		