

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 23, 2025

TO: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395

FROM: Keith Mozee
Executive Director and General Manager
Bureau of Street Services

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SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY EXPRESS LANES GRANT FUNDING - ROUND THREE FOR WAYFINDING AND TRANSIT AMENITIES IN DOWNTOWN LA (COUNCIL FILE 23-0790)

SUMMARY

On June 26, 2023, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) released a notice of funding availability for Express Lanes Grant Funding - Round Three. On August 2, 2023, the Los Angeles City Council authorized the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) to apply for funding from Metro for the execution of Express Lanes Grant Funding - Round Three. In March 2024, StreetsLA received a conditional award letter from Metro for the “Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA” project, which consists of \$8,414,975 in grant funds plus \$85,025 in local match for a total project cost of \$8,500,000. StreetsLA is requesting authority to accept these grant funds and execute all Restricted Grant Agreements and any amendments thereto with Metro for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. AUTHORIZE the Executive Director and General Manager of StreetsLA, or designee, to accept the conditional award in the amount of \$8,414,975 from Metro to fund the “Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA” project.
2. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to negotiate and execute a Restricted Grant Agreement and any amendments thereto with Metro, as may be necessary to claim grant funds.
3. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to execute any necessary funding and contractual documents, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, towards the completion of the grant scope.

4. AUTHORIZE the Controller to establish a new account within the Transportation Grant Fund (Fund 655, Dept 94) entitled “Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA” in the amount of \$8,414,975.
5. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to receive grant funds and reimburse the Transportation Grant Fund for expenditures made directly from the Transportation Grant Fund.
6. AUTHORIZE StreetsLA to make any technical adjustments as necessary to effectuate the intent of the Mayor and Council on this matter.

BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2023, Metro released a notice of funding availability for the Express Lanes Grant - Round Three. The Express Lanes Grant aims to increase mobility through a series of integrated strategies (transit operations, transportation demand management, transportation systems management, active transportation, and capital investments) in the I-10 and I-110 corridors. The total funding availability for the program is estimated to be \$72,550,000. On August 2, 2023, the Los Angeles City Council authorized StreetsLA to apply for funding (Council File [23-0790](#)).

Recognizing an opportunity to significantly improve the Downtown Los Angeles area, StreetsLA submitted an application to fund the “Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA” project. This project is strategically important, and is designed to seamlessly integrate with the urban fabric of Downtown Los Angeles, enhancing both the aesthetic and functional aspects of public transit facilities. The project proposes improvements along Flower St., Grand Ave., Olive St., and other corridors that will provide pedestrians/transit users with safe and walkable linkages to key destinations within downtown LA and future LA 2028 Olympics venues. This project includes the installation of 20 new bus shelters, each equipped with modern amenities such as shade, seating, lighting, and emergency call buttons, strategically placed at high-traffic stops to improve the comfort and safety of transit users. Alongside these shelters, the project will deploy 20 urban panels along key pedestrian routes. These urban panels will provide real-time transit updates, local event information, and public service announcements to assist stakeholders in navigating the city more effectively. The project also involves the creation of 12 distinctive gateway markers at major entry points to prominent neighborhoods within Downtown LA. These gateways are designed to welcome visitors and mark district transitions, enhancing neighborhood identities, and creating a more inviting urban environment. These efforts collectively aim to improve pedestrian navigation, increase the use of public transportation, and enhance the overall experience in Downtown LA.

DISCUSSION

In March 2024, StreetsLA received a conditional award letter from Metro for the “Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA” project, which consists of \$8,414,975 in grant funds plus \$85,025 in local match for a total project cost of \$8,500,000. The local match requirement will be provided in the form of StreetsLA staff time.

In reference to a conditional grant award in the amount of \$8,414,975 from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Express Lanes Grant

Funding - Round Three to the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) to fund the development and implementation of the “Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA project”, StreetsLA is requesting authority to accept these grant funds and execute all Restricted Grant Agreements and any amendments thereto with Metro for this purpose.

Additionally, the grant will be disbursed to the City on a reimbursement basis. StreetsLA intends to hire a consultant to assist with the implementation of the project and requires front funding from the Transportation Grant Fund (Fund 655, Dept 94) to pay the consultant for the grant work to be performed. The local match portion will be fulfilled using staff time funded through the Proposition C Anti-Gridlock Transit Fund as part of the Transportation Grant Annual Work Program and does not require front funding.

Below are lists of each infrastructure improvement and where they will be placed.

Proposed Urban Panel

| No. | Location |
|-----|---|
| 1 | NB Figueroa Street and 12th Street |
| 2 | NB Figueroa Street and FS 11th Street |
| 3 | NB Figueroa Street and FS Olympic Boulevard |
| 4 | 7th Street and Figueroa Street |
| 5 | 7th Street and Flower Street |
| 6 | 7th Street and Hope Street |
| 7 | 7th Street and Grand Avenue |
| 8 | Grand Avenue and 3rd Street |
| 9 | Grand Avenue and 2nd Street |
| 10 | Grand Avenue and 1st Street |
| 11 | Grand Avenue and Temple Street |
| 12 | Main Street and Temple Street |
| 13 | 3rd Street and Traction Avenue |
| 14 | 2nd Street and Broadway |
| 15 | 1st Street and Central Avenue |
| 16 | 2nd Street and Hope Street |
| 17 | NB Figueroa Street and FS Pico Boulevard |
| 18 | WB 2nd Street and Central Avenue |
| 19 | SB Mateo Street and Palmetto Street |
| 20 | 11th Street and Santee Alley |

Wayfinding signs

| No. | Location | Type |
|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 6th Street and 11- FWY NB | Gateway Overhead |
| 2 | Olympic Boulevard and Figueroa Street | Gateway Overhead |
| 3-4 | Grand Avenue and Temple Street | Side Gateway on Both Sides of Street (2x) |
| 5-6 | Grand Avenue and 3rd Street | Side Gateway on Both Sides of Street (2x) |
| 7-8 | 4th Street and Merrick Street | Side Gateway on Both Sides of Street (2x) |
| 9-10 | 7th Street and Broadway | Side Gateway on Both Sides of Street (2x) |
| 11-12 | Olympic Boulevard and Broadway | Side Gateway on Both Sides of Street (2x) |

STAP Transit Shelters

| No. | Location |
|-----|---|
| 1 | WB 5th Street and NS Olive Street |
| 2 | EB 6th Street and NS Grand Avenue |
| 3 | EB 6th Street and FS Flower Street |
| 4 | SB Flower Street and FS Olympic Boulevard |
| 5 | SB Flower Street and FS 7th Street |
| 6 | SB Flower Street and FS Pico Boulevard |
| 7 | SB Grand Avenue and NS 1st Street |
| 8 | SB Grand Avenue and NS 3rd Street |
| 9 | SB Grand Avenue and FS 7th Street |
| 10 | SB Grand Avenue and FS 8th Street |
| 11 | SB Grand Avenue and FS 9th Street |
| 12 | SB Grand Avenue and NS Pico Boulevard |
| 13 | NB Grand Avenue and NS 3rd Street |
| 14 | SB Grand Avenue and FS 5th Street |
| 15 | SB Hill Street and NS 5th Street |
| 16 | NB Hill Street and NS 7th Street |
| 17 | NB Olive Street and NS 7th Street |
| 18 | NB Olive Street and NS Pico Boulevard |

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 19 | NB Olive Street and FS 5th Street |
| 20 | NB Olive Street and FS Kosciuszko Way |

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no impact to the General Fund if the grant is accepted. The grant will be disbursed to the City on a reimbursement basis. Consultant costs will be expended from the Transportation Grant Fund and repaid as reimbursements from Metro are received, while StreetsLA staff time will be funded through its existing Proposition C appropriation.

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