

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: August 11, 2021

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

From: Seleta J. Reynolds, General Manager  for
Department of Transportation

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

SUMMARY

On July 27, 2021, Metro Los Angeles released a notice of funding availability for Open Streets Cycle Four grants. LADOT seeks authorization to apply for up to \$4,600,000 in funding from Metro for execution of Open Streets programming in the City of Los Angeles from January 2022 through December 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. AUTHORIZE LADOT to submit Metro Open Streets Cycle Four grant applications for up to 15 Open Streets programs (Attachment A) led by the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, for a total of up to \$4,600,000 in requested grant funds; and up to 4 applications for which the City of Los Angeles is a partner city to another lead jurisdiction.
2. AUTHORIZE LADOT to execute any necessary funding and contractual documents, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, to receive any Metro Open Streets Grant Program Cycle 4 awards, and to commit to provide the minimum required local match of up to \$1,150,000 through in-kind match for projects for which the City of Los Angeles is the Lead Agency, and up to \$112,500 for which the City of Los Angeles is a partner agency, in Fiscal Years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024.
3. 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, in order to facilitate grant funding dispersal and ensure event coordination.
4. AUTHORIZE LADOT to make any technical adjustments as necessary and consistent with this action, subject to the approval of the Office of the City Administrative Officer; and

AUTHORIZE the Controller to implement these instructions.

BACKGROUND

Open Streets events bring together Angelenos to enjoy city streets by temporarily transforming them into car-free public places 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 successfully facilitated many open streets events in partnership with a non-profit contractor and community-based organizations. Each event provides an opportunity for creative programming and the celebration of streets as community hubs.

On Thursday June 24, 2021, the Metro Board approved the Open Streets Grant Program Cycle 4 Application and Guidelines, making available \$5 million for Open Street events in Los Angeles County. Metro will distribute funding through a competitive grant application process, for which the deadline to apply is September 15, 2021. Funding is eligible for expenditure by December 31, 2023. Metro's Open Streets Program "aims to encourage sustainable modes of transportation (biking, walking and transit), provide an opportunity to take transit for the first time and provide an opportunity for civic engagement that can foster the development of multi-modal policies for cities."

LADOT participated in Metro Open Streets Cycles One, Two, and Three. In 2018, Metro awarded funding through Cycle Three for nine Open Streets events in 2019-2021 occurring within or passing through the City of Los Angeles (City): six events for which LADOT was the lead agency and occurring entirely within City of Los Angeles jurisdiction, and an additional three events led by partner cities in which LADOT was a delivery partner.

Metro Open Streets Cycle Three funds will expire on December 31, 2021, following a one-year extension due to the pandemic. LADOT delivered three Metro-funded events in 2019-2020 and repurposed funding awards from two awarded events for expenditure on COVID-19 response programs, Al Fresco and Slow Streets, in 2020-2021 (CF 20-1292). Due to COVID-19, LADOT postponed two events funded by Cycle Three, "Heart of Los Angeles" and "South Los Angeles-Crenshaw," and will deliver them in Fiscal Year 2021-2022, pending public health conditions. The City of Glendale, the lead agency for the Cycle Three-funded "Glendale to Atwater" event, chose to postpone and roll over the awarded funds, and will reapply under Cycle Four.

DISCUSSION

LADOT is committed to the sustainability and growth of Open Streets programming. LADOT's 2021-2023 Strategic Plan highlights the City's interest in expanding programs that open streets and promote flexible community open spaces. Expanding Open Streets events to monthly by 2022 and to weekly by 2023 is a benchmark action toward achieving the Strategic Plan goal of transforming 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. LADOT will issue a Request for Proposals to engage contractors that will support the City's delivery of the program, including any events and

programs that successfully compete for Metro Open Streets Cycle Four funds. The scope of work encompassed in the proposed Cycle Four is inclusive of well-vetted large-scale routes that are the most resource-intensive to plan and implement, and therefore most urgently in need of external funding. LADOT also plans to apply for funding through this opportunity to execute a new program area of up to five “neighborhood routes” measuring approximately 0.5- 2 miles each.

Metro Program Application Guidelines

The Metro Cycle Four Application and Guidelines build on the Cycles One, Two, Three, and 2020 Mini-Cycle framework and support a competitive, regional, and equitable process. Cycle Four expands funding eligibility under the existing Open Streets Grant Program framework to include slow streets and other related events that encourage social distancing and provide safe spaces for people walking, bicycling, and rolling. There are no minimum funding guarantees per applicant jurisdiction or event. Any city/jurisdiction, or a combined multi-jurisdictional team, can apply for a maximum of \$500,000 per single event. Metro will evaluate the proposals on the criteria of Project Feasibility, Route Setting, and Transit and Community Connectivity. The Metro Guidelines award additional points to events proposed in communities that Metro considers resource- challenged according to the CalEnviroScreen and Metro Equity Focused Communities Map.

The proposed scope of work for Cycle Four applications includes up to nine Major Program Routes, large-scale routes of over four miles that connect multiple neighborhoods and include opportunities for programmable activity hubs along the event route. LADOT will also apply for up to five new “neighborhood routes” measuring approximately 0.5-2 miles. These smaller activations will be focused on local community programming and continue to support multi-modal and flexible use of the street.

LADOT will also submit an application to fund the Play Streets Program for multiple, programmatic activations around the City during the Open Streets grant cycle from 2021-2023.

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 Four, LADOT intends to partner with the Cities of Glendale, West Hollywood, and Culver City, which will serve as the lead agencies for their applications, and with Beverly Hills and Los Angeles County as additional partners. 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 local match of 20% for awarded events.

Open Streets Program Funding

The 2021-22 Adopted Budget appropriates a total of \$1,000,000 in Measure M Local Return and Mobile Source Pollution Reduction (MSAPR) Trust Fund for Open Streets events. To provide sufficient local funding match for the total proposed applications, the City will need to identify

an additional \$500,000 in Fiscal Years FY 22-23 and FY 23-24. The City of Los Angeles intends to provide in-kind support to contribute to the required local match.

FISCAL IMPACT

Open Streets events are largely funded through grants. The Adopted Budget provides front funding and City local match costs through the City's Measure M Local Return Fund. The Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 includes \$500,000 in Measure M Local Return funds and \$500,000 in MSAPR Trust Fund for the Open Streets Program. The City also funds Open Streets events and local match costs for Metro-funded Open Streets programs through the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Trust Fund, Proposition C Local Transit Assistance Fund, and the Transportation Development Act Article 3's Local Transportation Fund. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Attachment A

Metro Open Streets Cycle 4 Applications | January 2022- December 2023

<u>Cal Year</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Open Streets Route</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>Program Type</u>	<u>Lead Agency</u>	<u>Includes Resource Challenged Communities per Metro</u>
2022	21-22	City of Glendale Partnership (Glendale- Atwater)	13	Major Program Route	Glendale	Yes
2022	21-22	West Hollywood Partnership (West Hollywood- Hollywood- Beverly Hills)	4, 5, 13	Major Program Route	West Hollywood	Yes
2022	21-22	Culver City Partnership (Culver City- Venice)	5, 11, 21	Major Program Route	Culver City	No
2022	22-23	Panorama City- Pacoima- Van Nuys	6, 7	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2022	22-23	Heart of LA	1, 13, 14	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2022	22-23	South Los Angeles	8, 9, 10, 15	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	22-23	Mid City- Pico Union	1, 10	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	22-23	West Valley- Reseda	3, 12	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	23-24	Koreatown- Hollywood	4, 10, 13	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	23-24	Heart of LA	1, 14, 9	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	23-24	South Los Angeles	8, 9	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	23-24	Mid City to Venice	5, 10, 11	Major Program Route	Los Angeles	Yes
2022	21-22	South LA Neighborhood Route	8, 10	Neighborhood Route/ Activation	Los Angeles	Yes
2022	22-23	Valley Neighborhood Route	2	Neighborhood Route/ Activation	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	22-23	South LA Neighborhood Route	15	Neighborhood Route/ Activation	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	22-23	East/Northeast LA Neighborhood Route	14	Neighborhood Route/ Activation	Los Angeles	Yes
2023	23-24	One Neighborhood Route To Be Determined		Neighborhood Route/ Activation	Los Angeles	Yes
2021-24	21-24	Play Streets	Various	Community-Based Activations	Los Angeles	Yes