

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 2021

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

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

Subject: **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS: MOBILITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (MDP), CICLAVIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO), SOUTH LOS ANGELES TRANSIT EMPOWERMENT ZONE (SLATE-Z), THE LOS ANGELES CLEANTECH INCUBATOR (LACI), LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER (LADWP) AND THE LOS ANGELES TRADE TECHNICAL COLLEGE (LATTC), TO EXECUTE THE CARB FUNDED SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY PROJECT.**

SUMMARY

The attached report was approved by the Mayor with ED3 waiver. This report is now referred to Council for review and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council with the concurrence by the Mayor:

Authorize executing agreements to implement the California Air Resource Board (CARB) Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) through March 31, 2025, with a total not to exceed the amount of \$7,077,770.53. The agreements are between LADOT and each of the following partners:

- Mobility Development Partners, LLC (MDP), to provide administrative and technical support for not to exceed amount of \$258,347.13;
- CicLAVia, to provide open street events for a not to exceed amount of \$175,000.00;
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), to develop mobility wallet for a not to exceed amount of \$756,770.00;
- South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (Slate-Z), to provide community engagement and outreach for a not to exceed amount of \$440,648.50;
- Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), to provide e-bikes and workforce training for a not to exceed amount of \$1,600,000.00;
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
- Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL), to install electric chargers for a not to exceed amount of \$240,000; and
- Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC), to provide workforce training and internships for a not to exceed amount of \$258,504.00

BACKGROUND

On June 4, 2020, CARB issued a notice of funding availability for the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) grant program to address community transportation needs, increase access to key destinations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by funding clean transportation.

On August 19, 2020, City Council authorized LADOT to apply for an amount up to \$16 million in CARB STEP grant funding to expand mobility solutions in South Los Angeles.

On November 6, 2020, LADOT received an award letter stating that CARB preliminarily selected the STEP LADOT proposal for a \$7,077,770 grant. On May 27, 2021, City Council approved and authorized LADOT to accept this grant award (C.F. #20-1041). LADOT is partnering with MDP, CicLAvia, Metro, EVgo, Slate-Z, LACI, LATTIC, LADWP, and BSL for project implementation as it aligns with the STEP to expand the City's BlueLA electric vehicle car share stations and charging facilities throughout South Los Angeles, subsidize micromobility and electric bicycle access, implement an electric vehicle neighborhood shuttle, and develop a Mobility Wallet to distribute sustainable transportation subsidies.

DISCUSSION

STEP is a new CARB funding program that takes a community-based approach to overcoming barriers to clean transportation and mobility options. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase access to clean transportation, and address community transportation needs by funding planning, clean transportation, and land use projects. This pilot is part of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Low Carbon Transportation Funding Plan, which is part of California Climate Investments.

Below is a summary of the STEP implementation project.

- EVgo will install a Direct Current (DC) fast charging plaza in South Los Angeles. EVgo will develop, own, operate, and maintain the charging hub. Currently, EVgo contract is under negotiations and will be submitted separately and follow the same process for approval.
- MDP will provide technical assistance and support for implementation of the STEP grant. MDP will also assist with recruitment and development of the steering committee and community outreach management.
- LADWP will provide rebates for both the STEP and BlueLA Carshare project on electric vehicles and electric infrastructure. The rebates will fund Level 2 charging stations at numerous City-owned or public facilities, on street lights, and curbside as part of an expanded BlueLA Program.
- Metro will implement and test a mobility wallet for low-income residents in South Los Angeles by expanding the current Transit Access Pass (TAP) Program. A mobility pass will include transit and shared mobility credits for a 2,500-person pilot subscriber base for one year as part of a monthly transportation allocation that will also include access to the electric mobility services.
- LACI will implement an E-Bike Library project. LACI will work to procure an e-bike library model that provides free electric bicycle access for extended "check-outs" to South LA residents. The

library will provide access to 250 pedal-assist shared electric bikes. LACI will also provide workforce training.

- LATTTC will create workforce development programs and career pathways. LATTTC will conduct Electric Vehicle (EV) Technician training that will cover basic, intermediate and advanced training of electric vehicles which includes different configurations used in the automotive, transit, and trucking agencies. LATTTC will also develop and implement an eMobility Youth Ambassador Program. Partnership with LATTTC is critical as 43% of LATTTC students live within the STEP Community and the college provides workforce development programs with career pathways in the climate and clean transportation sectors.
- SLATE-Z will be the lead partner responsible for developing and implementing a process for community engagement and developing plans for outreach and education activities around STEP proposal projects. Slate-Z will create a Resident Advisory Committee (RAC) that will include representation from local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and a Steering Committee that will include CBO representatives, RAC members, and community partners.
- CicLAvia will provide two open street events to serve as testing and onboarding platforms for the STEP Pilot, as well as venues for data collection, community feedback, and outreach and recruitment for the Community Stakeholder Structure.
- The Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) will lead the installation of street light electric vehicle charging stations. BSL will provide a maintenance plan for reliable operations and charging infrastructure. BSL will install 30 chargers affixed to street lighting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Acceptance of the \$7,077, 770.53 million for Sustainable Transportation Equity Project grant award from CARB will provide funds to support the City's efforts to continue the nation's biggest EV Carsharing Program and provide access to transportation options in disadvantaged community in South LA. The STEP grant will fund the development of a mobility wallet program, installation of electric chargers, provision of electric bikes for public use, deliver training and workforce development, and provide Community outreach and Engagement. Upon execution of the grant agreement, the City anticipates total reimbursement of \$7,077,770.53 during the performance period through March 31, 2025. The grant requires a minimum 20% funding match that will be secured through a combination of funds including:

- A portion of CARB grant funds (\$3.0 million) for Phase II of the City's BlueLA Electric Vehicle Carshare system
- \$855,000 in state Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction funds provided in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020
- 2020-21 Adopted Budget for contractual services to implement an electric vehicle car share system and other sustainable transportation initiatives, and
- Additional funds and in-kind match provided by LADOT, LADWP, LACI, LATTTC, Ciclavia, and Metro.

Matching and in-kind resources of at least \$3,984,261 will be available to implement the STEP Pilot Project. LADOT continues to seek state and federal support for associated initiatives.

There is no financial impact from this project to the General Fund. These recommendations are in compliance with City Financial Policies in that grant revenues and anticipated budgeted City funds are available to support this program. Further information on these commitments is outlined in the grant application.

SJR:ss

Attachment