

Metro CIG/ EPD Prioritization Assessment Workshops and Presentations

Staff engaged late in 2019 the professional services of technical and legal consulting teams to conduct a prioritization assessment of the “pillar” and East San Fernando Valley (ESFV) Transit Corridor projects for New Starts grants from the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program and from the Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Program following the evaluation criteria of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as applicable to each type of these grants. Staff, with support from the consulting team, organized four workshops for Board Offices to seek their timely feedback.

February 2020 Workshop: Introduced Board Offices to the goals, evaluation criteria, and assumptions of the New Starts Prioritization Assessment for the Pillar Projects. However, the assessment had to be paused due to the coronavirus pandemic and stay-at-home order. Also, three separate workshops were delivered to allow opportunity for questions and receive feedback from Board Offices.

December 2020 Workshop: Focused on the goals of New Starts Prioritization Assessment: i) identify opportunities and constraints for securing New Starts and EPD grants from the FTA; ii) assess CIG New Starts rating results and implications for individual projects; iii) develop project specific recommendations for pursuing New Starts and EPD grants; and iv) develop recommendations on targeted New Starts/ EPD legislative and FTA engagement strategies to secure grants from the FTA for the projects that are fund to be eligible and most competitive. Staff expanded the scope of the New Starts Assessment to include the ESFV Transit Corridor Project. This Workshop also provided an overview of the CIG and EPD programs, including grant application and evaluation processes and criteria. It also discussed in more detail the FTA’s current project “pipeline” and the pillars of success for securing New Starts grants based on lessons learned from Metro’s most recent experience with the Regional Connector and Purple Line Extension projects and from other projects nationwide.

February 2021 Workshop: Focused on the general and project-specific assumptions for the New Starts Prioritization Assessment relevant to the FTA’s project justification criteria. It also presented four scenarios for the evaluation of these criteria, including a sensitivity analysis that factors project cost increases based on recent bid trends. One scenario assumed a 20 percent higher cost that what was last reported to the Board of Directors (adjusted to 2020 \$). Another scenario assumed an additional 20 percent increase. The FTA’s local financial commitment criteria were also discussed, while identifying those with either a positive or negative impact in the project’s rating.

March 2021 Workshop: Identified the pillars of success for securing New Starts/ EPD grants, presented the project justification ratings for the “pillar” and ESFV Transit Corridor projects, assessed schedules for securing New Starts and/or EPD grants while also taking into consideration project readiness in meeting the FTA’s requirements, as well as the commitment and availability of non-federal funds. The presentations for the three CIG/ EPD Priority Assessment Workshops can be accessed [here](#).