



Metro Open Streets Grant Program Cycle Four

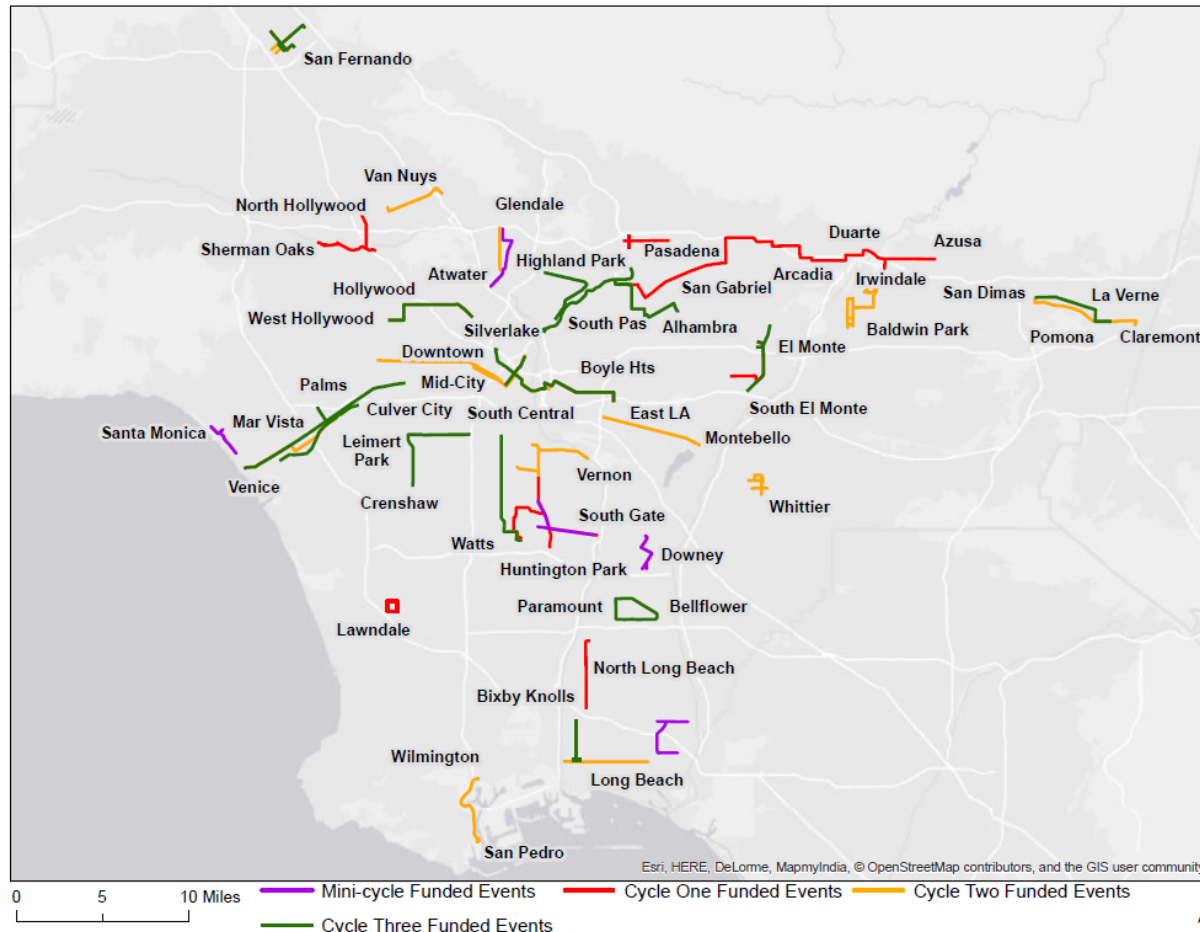
Open Streets Grant Program

Recommendation: Authorize the Metro Open Streets Grant Program Cycle Four Application and Guidelines.

- In June 2013, the Board introduced Motion 72, directing staff to award up to \$2 million annually to support Open Street events.
- Cycle Four builds on past cycles and supports a competitive application process for events through December 2023.
- Based on experience from the 2020 Mini-Cycle, staff recommends increasing the available annual funding from \$2 million to \$2.5 million.
- Following the May Board Motion 2020-0375 staff updated guidelines to allow for “slow streets” that encourage social distancing and multi-day events.
- Board authorization of the Open Streets Grant Program Cycle Four Application Package and Guidelines is requested in order to proceed.

Program Implementation

- To date, \$12.74 million has been awarded to 46 events in 34 jurisdictions.
- Of these, 33 events totaling over 206 miles have been implemented.
- 13 additional events are planned through December 2021, including those postponed as result of COVID-19 and those re-scoped to “Slow Street” events.



Open Streets Evaluation Study

Key findings from event-day data:

- Rail boardings systemwide increased on average 7%.
- Lines directly adjacent to events saw the largest increase.
- Sales of new tap cards increased 11% systemwide on event-days compared to non-event Sundays. People ride bikes more often after attending Open Streets for the first time.



Cycle Four Application and Guidelines

- Increase annual funding from \$2 million to \$2.5 million.
- Maintain \$500,000 max funding ceiling per event.
- Maintain focus on regional distribution.
- Continue to accept applications for Slow Streets and related programs that encourage social distancing, and safe spaces for walking and biking .
- Implement incentives through application scoring:
 - Events in equity-focused communities;
 - Innovative events;
 - Multi-day, extended route events that encourage social distancing; and
 - New routes and improvements on previous routes.



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Cycle Four Next Steps

Pending Board Approval:

- Release online application summer 2021.
- Hold an informational virtual application workshop.
- Outreach to COGs, the Metro TAC and TAC subcommittees.
- Return to Board for Cycle Four funding recommendations winter 2021.

