

**2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

**GOAL #1: PROPOSING TO CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OUR REBUILDING AMERICA INITIATIVE TO BOLSTER FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR OUR AGENCY'S GOAL TO ACCELERATE OUR AMBITIOUS CAPITAL PROGRAM**

Proposed Activities:

Support federal surface transportation authorization legislation (that will replace the FAST Act that expires on September 30, 2021) that embraces our Rebuilding America initiative that sets forth five key goals for Congress and the Trump Administration to adopt in order to strengthen federal transportation programs. These five goals are:

1. Increasing the length of future surface transportation authorization bills to increase the certainty needed by our agency and other transportation entities to appropriately plan for the future and decisively increases funding for the federal New Starts program as reflected in the Invest in America Act.
2. Increase the federal gas tax to address the federal Highway Trust Funds' solvency issues.
3. Authorize America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds to provide a powerful new finance tool for transportation agencies to use when financing major capital projects.
4. Expand and reform the Projects of National and Regional Significance program – first authorized in SAFETEA-LU.
5. Increase federal support for proven workforce development programs that will ensure Metro and other transportation agencies continue to have a skilled workforce for our expanding transportation systems.

**GOAL #2: WORK TO BOLSTER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND OBTAIN NEW STARTS FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE METRO TRANSIT PROJECTS**

Proposed Activities:

Continue to work with the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, transportation leaders in the House and Senate and the U.S. Department of Transportation to bolster funding – through the appropriations process - for the federal Capital Investment Grant program (CIG). Additionally, work to reform the program to improve the application process. The CIG program is vital in assisting Metro to build new high capacity transit projects throughout Los Angeles County. Metro currently receives funding through this

program for the Westside Purple Line Extension (Section 1), Westside Purple Line Extension (Section 2), and the Westside Purple Line Extension (Section 3). Over the last decade, Metro has secured over \$5 billion through Full Funding Grant Agreements and TIFIA loans issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additionally, Metro will continue to advocate for the reform of the CIG program to allow for great efficiency in project delivery.

**GOAL #3: WORK WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SUCCESSFULLY COORDINATE ON THE 2028 U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES BEING HELD IN LOS ANGELES**

Proposed Activities:

Historically, the U.S. Department of Transportation has played a vital role in assisting and coordinating with regional transportation agencies to ensure enhanced mobility during the Olympic and Paralympic Games held in the United States. Metro will work with officials at the White House and the U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure the free flow of information on the opportunity for the federal government to fund the many mobility enhancing projects being built and being planned across Los Angeles County by our agency.

**GOAL #4: SEEK TO RESTORE OBAMA-ERA REFORMS TO FEDERAL LOCAL HIRE RULES**

Proposed Activities:

Work with the Administration, Congress and other relevant stakeholders to restore Obama-era Local Hire reforms. Included in this effort would be our agency making the case that local hire programs do not impact competition based on evidence from Metro's experience with the Local Hire Pilot Program. Included in this effort, Metro will work to also support legislation, such as the Build Local, Hire Local Act that was introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**GOAL #5: CONTINUE TO WORK WITH METROLINK TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR STATE OF GOOD REPAIR AND CORE CAPACITY PROJECTS**

Proposed Activities:

Work to support Metrolink's board approved State of Good Repair and Core Capacity project list by ensuring federal funding is applied to these important projects. Additionally, Metro will support programs that benefit commuter rail through the next surface transportation authorization bill.

**GOAL #6: SUPPORT REFORMS TO FEDERAL POLICIES AND FUNDING THAT WOULD BENEFIT METRO'S NEXTGEN INITIATIVE**

Proposed Activities:

Continue to seek reforms to federal programs that support bus operations as well as increase funding for both formula and discretionary bus grant programs that can strengthen our agency's NextGen initiative.

**GOAL #7: SECURE DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUNDING FROM MAJOR U.S. DOT GRANT PROGRAMS**

Proposed Activities:

Organize strategic advocacy plans in coordination with local and regional stakeholders as well as Los Angeles County's Congressional Delegation to demonstrate strong support for grant applications that Metro submits to the U.S. Department of Transportation. These grant applications would be for, but not limited to, the INFRA Grant Program, BUILD Grant Program, Bus and Bus Facilities, and the LoNo Grant Program.

**GOAL #8: ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES AND FUNDING TO ASSIST IN HELPING THE COUNTY IMPROVE HOMELESSNESS**

Proposed Activity:

Consistent with Board directives, Metro will support legislation, initiatives, and programs for additional funding, services and resources to address the homelessness crisis, including any opportunities for direct assistance to Metro and our partner agencies.

**GOAL #9: SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS THAT WILL IMPACT METRO'S ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT VISION 2028, THE AGENCY'S FIVE-POINT PLAN**

Proposed Activities:

The Metro Vision 2028 Plan is the agency-wide strategic plan that creates the foundation for transforming mobility in LA County over the next 10 years. Future advocacy efforts will be guided by the Board-approval of the specific Vision 2028 activity.

Metro's Five-Point Plan outlines how Metro's programs and initiatives aim to: • Implement Mobility Innovation • Capture the Hearts and Minds of the People • Embrace Equity • Foster Continuous Improvement • Step into Leadership Voids

Monitor legislation that would impact Metro's ability to implement the strategic goals outlined in Vision 2028; Monitor legislation that would impact Metro's ability to implement the aspects of the Five Point plan; and Support legislation and initiatives that would increase Metro's ability to implement Vision 2028 and the Five-Point Plan.

## **GOAL #10: CONTINUE TO WORK TO BRING A PERMANENT CENTER OF TRANSPORTATION EXCELLENCE INDUSTRIAL PARK TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

### Proposed Activities:

Work to encourage federal support for our CEO's goal of creating a Center of Transportation Excellence within Los Angeles County – which would result in having a rolling stock production facility in Los Angeles County. Our agency will, consistent with the relevant Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors resolutions, closely collaborate with Los Angeles County's CEO and their professional staff, in addition to other municipal leaders, in identifying viable locations, both short and long-term, for an industrial complex to potentially include rail and bus manufacturing plant in Los Angeles County. This complex may also include, but not be limited to, suppliers of rail and bus parts, a rail test track and a climate-controlled facility for testing purposes.

## **GOAL #11: ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES**

### Proposed Activities:

1. Work to ensure that any legislation adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President concerning autonomous vehicles does not compromise safety by weakening state and local traffic laws;
2. Work with Metro's regional partners to advance career education and training programs that will ensure the needed workforce to operate and maintain our transit system is ready and available;
3. Work with the Administration to avoid negative impacts as a result of implementation of tariffs on steel and various rolling stock parts and materials;
4. Work to support funding for active transportation such as bikeshare and other first/last mile mobility solutions;
5. Work closely with the Administration and USDOT on regulations and proposed rulemakings that impact Metro;
6. Work with USDOT – consistent with Board policy – to address congestion pricing opportunities with respect to potential funding and regulations;
7. Work to create and implement a federal program that supports Metro's Fareless Transit Initiative, including but not limited to, supporting legislation like the Freedom to Move Act that was introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.
8. Work with Congress to allow art and non-functional landscaping expenses related to transit projects to be eligible for federal funding;

9. Support legislation that would create new financial incentives to facilitate the development of affordable housing around transit;
10. Seek to ensure tax benefits and credits that are important to Metro remain in the U.S. tax code.
11. Monitor and support legislation that would authorize the cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to develop and implement strategies to reach Vision Zero goals of improving safety and eliminating traffic-related fatalities.