

Metro



Board Report

File #: 2015-1479, File Type: Motion / Motion Response

Agenda Number: 58.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2015**

Motion by:

Ridley-Thomas, Garcetti, Dupont-Walker and Kuehl

September 27, 2015

**Relating to Item 58, File ID 2015-1088;
IMPLEMENTATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND BUSINESS LOAN FUNDS**

In March 2015, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate the terms and conditions for Metro's participation in a multi-partner Countywide Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing and Business Loan Fund (Proposed Fund). The purpose of the Proposed Fund was to promote development and preservation of affordable housing and small businesses within a half-mile of Metro rail stations, bus rapid transit or rapid bus stops.

Staff has engaged members of the community development and finance communities in exploring potential formats for the Proposed Fund with an emphasis on transit oriented communities. While the residential and commercial purposes of the Proposed Fund are synergistic, their administration, approach and objectives are materially different, therefore necessitating two separate funding frameworks.

With regard to the Affordable Housing Loan Fund, staff has identified a consortium led by the California Community Foundation and Low Income Investment Fund that has the local experience, depth of potential investor interest and deep experience in creating and implementing housing investment funds to meet the Board's objectives for this investment. The consortium has committed to securing over \$60 million to match Metro's \$10 million commitment in order to meaningfully capitalize the loan fund.

With regard to the Business Loan Fund, staff has reached out to a number of impacted stakeholders, and has indicators that a potential comprehensive package of loan products requires additional consideration. However, staff has identified an immediate and critical gap in available funding for commercial tenant improvements both as a component of mixed-use affordable housing projects and in small, free standing commercial properties in close proximity to transit facilities, but the challenge extends to community-based retail tenants within one and one-half mile of transit corridors. With

regard to ground floor retail in mixed-use affordable housing projects, a study by the City of Los Angeles indicated that nearly 20% of the City of LA's funded affordable housing projects have vacancies, with most of these vacancies concentrated in underserved neighborhoods. In addition, Metro affordable housing joint developments have chronic vacancies at Hollywood and Western, Westlake MacArthur Park, 1st and Boyle, and Del Mar Stations. Providing grants to support the establishment of local, small businesses within projects such as these can support local economic development initiatives and promote job creation while lowering the risks of displacement and contributing to the revitalization of transit-oriented communities.

MOTION by Ridley-Thomas, Garcetti, Dupont-Walker and Kuehl directing the Chief Executive Officer to move forward with implementation of Affordable Housing and Business Loan Funds as follows:

- A. Engage the consortium led by California Community Foundation and Low Income Investment Fund to negotiate terms and conditions, in a multi-partner Countywide Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing Loan Fund to support the production and preservation of transit-oriented affordable housing (including mixed use projects) that leverages Metro's financial contribution, as previously approved by the Board in March 2015, and return to the Board for approval of the final terms and conditions;
- B. Design a pilot Countywide Transit-Oriented Small Business Loan Fund program to provide financing under favorable terms for commercial tenant improvements within transit adjacent, mixed use (including affordable housing) or commercial projects with particular emphasis on tenant improvements for local small businesses, with priority for ones that have been operating in the community for at least 5 years. Should Metro be unable to administer the loan fund internally, the agency should contract with an external administrator with relevant expertise (e.g. community development financial institutions, banks, the Community Development Commission, or small business centers);
- C. Continue research and engagement with community development financial institutions, municipalities, private sector banks, regional economic development corporations, and other interested parties on the potential expansion of the Countywide Transit-Oriented Small Business Loan Fund program to include a variety of financial products and report back within 120 days;
- D. For purposes of furthering the above described objectives, amend the budget to initially allocate \$500,000 of the previously-committed funding for the Affordable Housing and Business Loan Fund to the pilot Countywide Transit-Oriented Small Business Loan Fund, to be dispersed over the next two fiscal years, and be administered by the Office of Management and Budget and the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department, in coordination with the Office of Countywide Planning and Development; and
- E. Provide a quarterly written update to the Board on the status, implementation and impacts of both Loan Fund programs.

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Board Report

File #: 2020-0307, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response

Agenda Number: 43.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23, 2020**

Motion by:

**DIRECTORS RIDLEY-THOMAS, KUEHL, BUTTS, GARCETTI, and
DUPONT-WALKER**

Assistance to Transit-Oriented Businesses in Response to COVID-19

On August 25, 2016, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors approved the Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Small Business Program, allocating \$1,000,000 in loan funding for tenant improvements to ground floor retail spaces in affordable housing projects near High Quality Transit Nodes.

The purpose of the TOC Small Business Program was to provide low-interest, flexible loans to support small businesses that are located close to public transit. The TOC Small Business Program funding has been allocated to the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), to administer the program on behalf of Metro. However, to date, there has been limited interest in the fund, with \$853,000 still available.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic impacts locally, the LACDA has established a Business Recovery Loan Program (Loan Program) to provide immediate relief to small businesses. This Loan Program, initially funded with \$3,000,000 from the Economic Development Administration, was created to provide flexible borrowing options for Los Angeles County business owners to enable them to remain viable until the economy reopens. There is significant demand for the Loan Program, with over 800 businesses expressing interest in securing a loan within 24 hours of the launch of the Program.

Repurposing the TOC Small Business Program into a TOC Business Recovery Loan Program could provide a critical and timely tool to sustain small businesses located close to transit, which are struggling to survive the COVID-19 economic crisis. The repurposing of these funds also advances Metro's continued partnership with other governmental entities and community-based organizations to support LA County residents and business owners facing hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO TRANSIT-ORIENTED BUSINESSES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**RECOMMENDATION**

APPROVE Motion by Directors Ridley-Thomas, Kuehl, Butts, Garcetti, and Dupont-Walker:

Directing the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute amendments to the agreement with the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) to reallocate up to \$853,000 of the TOC Small Business Program funds to implement a TOC COVID-19 Business Recovery Loan Program with the following components:

1. Restrict the funds to businesses within Los Angeles County that are within 1/4 mile of a Major Transit Stop as defined by California Public Resources Code Section 21064.3, which may be amended from time to time;
2. Require the loans funded with Metro funds be subject to the following requirements:
 - a. Each below-market interest loan will not exceed \$20,000 and will cover operating expenses for a qualifying small business with up to 25 full time employees;
 - b. Each loan will have a 5-year term with repayment of principal and interest deferred for the first 12 months;
 - c. There will be no loan origination fee and no collateral required; and
 - d. Each recipient must have been in continuous operation for not less than 24 months prior to the COVID-19 crisis and have demonstrated a negative financial impact due to the COVID-19 crisis.
3. Limit LACDA's administrative costs to no more than \$37,000; and
4. Metro staff will provide an update to the Board of Directors in writing within 6 months of Board Approval regarding the impact of the TOC COVID-19 Business Recovery Loan Program.

AMENDMENT

Board Meeting

April 22, 2020

**Item 43: Assistance to Transit-Oriented Businesses in
Response to COVID-19**

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board direct the CEO to:

1. Ensure that any Metro funding added to the LA County Business Recovery Loan Program will be repaid back to Metro and retained for the Transit Oriented Communities Small Business Program;
2. Work with LACDA to ensure geographic distribution of Metro funds across subregions; and
3. Report back to the Planning & Programming Committee in 120 days with recommendations for improvements to the Transit Oriented Communities Small Business Program, including but not limited to guideline revisions to make funding easier for small businesses to access.

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Metro

Board Report

File #: 2020-0910, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response

Agenda Number: 49.

REVISED
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
JANUARY 21, 2021

Motion by:

DIRECTORS GARCETTI, KUEHL, SOLIS, AND KREKORIAN

Metro Small-Scale Retail

Services and retail offered at transportation hubs support a robust and attractive system. Retail activity as part of the transportation experience can increase safety, support communities, and directly create economic opportunities. Metro staff presented the Concessions Study Report to the Board in 2014 which found that Metro could realize more than \$800,000 per year in net revenue with a system-wide concession program. With the ongoing financial crisis from COVID-19, Metro needs to evaluate all options for increasing revenue.

Since 2014, Metro's portfolio of projects has expanded, including Active Transportation and Bus Rapid Transit Corridors. These types of projects have more interfaces with local rights-of-way than traditional bus stops or rail stations, resulting in more complex relationships between Metro and local jurisdictions. Metro's potential opportunities for concessions may be broader now than several years ago and could include equity-informed community partnerships or business cases started through Unsolicited Proposals.

SUBJECT: METRO SMALL-SCALE RETAIL

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Motion by Directors Garcetti, Kuehl, Solis, and Krekorian as amended that the Board direct the CEO to:

- A. Revisit the findings of the Jones Lang LaSalle Concessions Program Concept for Metro Owned Facilities report dated June 28, 2013 and develop an assessment of needs to establish a small-scale retail program that supports small and disadvantaged businesses, and microentrepreneurs, including context-sensitive community partnerships, in Metro's current portfolio of projects.

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Amendment by Dupont-Walker: Include opportunities to complement and partner with the Transit-Oriented Communities Small Business Program, which is currently being updated by Countywide Planning.

B. Form a working group to determine opportunities and next steps for advancing this work.

C. Report back to EMC with an update in 90 days.