Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority
One Gateway Plaza
3rd Floor Board Room
Los Angeles, CA

Board Report

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 27, 2019

Motion by:

KUEHL, SOLIS, FASANA, BARGER AND GARCETTI

Related to Item 22: Transit to Parks

Los Angeles County's Parks and Recreation Countywide Comprehensive Needs Assessment documents the lack of access to parks and open spaces in Los Angeles County. More than 40 percent of lower income households in the County do not have easy access to a park. Moreover, 22 percent of the County's large public open spaces do not have direct public transit connections. Metro's Transit to Parks Strategic Plan represents a strategic vision for increasing access to parks and open space, specifically for disadvantaged communities.

Improving access to parks and open spaces by filling in the gaps in our regional transportation network requires collaboration at all levels of government. The recent passage of Measure A, the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure and Metro's own Measure M provide us with a unique opportunity to improve access to our open space treasures by partnering with Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District in their Recreational Access Competitive grant Program. The Open Space District has $5 million in funding available for grants to local government entities and non-profits to improve access to parks and open spaces. By leveraging a small amount of staff time and funding, Metro will potentially see a significant return on their investment.

SUBJECT: TRANSIT TO PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Motion by Kuehl, Solis, Fasana, Barger and Garcetti that the Board direct the CEO to:

1. Designate a Metro Transit to Parks liaison responsible for internal and external coordination of Transit to Parks Strategic Plan activities and monitoring.
2. Create marketing and promotional materials for existing and future transit lines serving parks and open space areas including a web based access tool, identifying transit routes to public lands.

3. Perform outreach to Councils of Government (COGs), parks organizations, municipal operators and other partner agencies to promote the Transit to Parks Strategic Plan as a resource and encourage funding and implementation partnerships.
4. Collaborate with the Los Angeles County Open Space District by contributing $1 million in funding to create a grant program for cities and non-profits to fund transit to parks programs and initiatives.
5. Pursue discretionary funding opportunities for Transit to Parks Strategic Plan activities including providing grant writing assistance to eligible partner agencies and non-profits.
6. Collaborate with County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation to determine a baseline number of Los Angeles County residents who lack a 10 minute walk or ride to a park. Support County of Los Angeles Parks in updating that data in congruence with the LA County Park Needs Assessment every 5-8 years.
7. Utilize the Transit to Parks Strategic Plan as a guiding document in the development of a Regional Service Concept through the NextGen Bus Study.
8. Utilize the information contained in this board report and accompanying study in the formation of the recommendations to integrate transit-to-parks planning into 28x'28 and Measure M project planning.
9. Report back to the Board every 6 months with status updates.