

**Board Report**

File #: 2021-0767, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response**Agenda Number:** 44.

REVISED
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2021

Motion by:**DIRECTORS SOLIS, HAHN, BARGER, SANDOVAL, AND BUTTS**

Alameda Corridor-East Projects

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) intends to seek the allocation of previously programmed state funds for the final two Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) grade separation projects by vote of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by no later than June 2022. However, due to extraordinary recent increases in construction phase and right-of-way costs as experienced by multiple public projects across the transportation infrastructure sector in Southern California, a shortfall in local match funds to the state funds has developed. If local match is not timely secured, the ACE Project will forfeit a total of \$116,851,000 in state funds programmed to the Montebello Boulevard grade separation project and the Turnbull Canyon Road grade separation project and committed from the following state programs: Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (\$18,851,000), 2018 SB1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (\$78,000,000), and Section 190 priority grade separation funds (\$20,000,000).

Since inception of the ACE Project in 1998, SGVCOG has successfully secured federal, state and local funding and cost-efficiently implemented the design and construction of the ACE Project, a series of rail-highway grade separation and at-grade safety projects in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County.

The ACE Project was among 25 projects in the nation designated in the federal SAFETEA-LU transportation program legislation in 2005 as Projects of National and Regional Significance, nationally recognized as enhancing the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods through the U.S. to improve the national economy. At the state level, the ACE Project was awarded funding from the 2006 Prop 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Fund intended for infrastructure improvements along federally designated "Trade Corridors of National Significance." LA Metro has acknowledged the regional significance of the ACE Project via multiple funding agreements and amendments since an initial agreement between Metro and SGVCOG (previously the ACE Construction Authority) was entered into in July 1998.

With the federal, state and local funding SGVCOG has fully funded and completed 14 grade separation projects and multiple at-grade crossing safety projects. Three grade separations are fully

funded and currently in construction. Lacking sufficient local funds to advance into construction are two grade separations projects in the design and right-of-way phases, one located in the City of Montebello and another located in the City of Industry and the unincorporated community of Hacienda Heights, as well as a program of at-grade pedestrian crossing safety improvements at four crossings in the City of Pomona. All three projects are located in Metro Equity Focus Communities or within state-defined Disadvantaged Communities.

The total shortfall in local funds for the three projects is estimated at \$136,00,000. Metro can partner with the SGVCOG to provide technical assistance and explore and identify funding streams to help close this funding gap, which will allow SGVCOG to secure a fund allocation vote from the CTC, thereby avoiding forfeiture of the state funds and moving the projects into the construction phase as scheduled.

SUBJECT: ALAMEDA CORRIDOR-EAST PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Motion by Directors Solis, Hahn, Barger, Sandoval, and Butts that the Board of Directors direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

- A. Collaborate with the SGVCOG to evaluate the cost increases for the three projects and potential strategies such as value engineering to close the funding gap;
- B. Explore funding streams such as grant funding and other sources to help the SGVCOG secure sufficient funding to complete all three projects, with priority placed on securing full funding for the grade separation projects prior to the CTC funding allocation vote by no later than June 2022;
- C. Assist and collaborate with SGVCOG in developing Project Labor Agreements for the two grade separation projects to prioritize partnerships with labor in expeditiously advancing construction of the grade separation projects and the employment of Los Angeles County workers;
- D. Report back on all directives in March ~~2021~~ 2022.