



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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## **Open and Slow Streets Cycle Five Guidelines**

### **Program Guidelines**

#### **Program Objectives**

Open and Slow Streets are events which temporarily close the streets to automobiles and open them up to people to re-imagine their streets while walking, riding a bicycle, rollerblading or pushing a stroller in a car-free environment. Open Streets Events are usually larger and last longer throughout the day than Slow Streets. Slow Streets are on an event basis and are multiple days of events. The goals of the program are to encourage sustainable modes of transportation (bicycling, walking and transit), provide an opportunity to take transit for the first time, and provide an opportunity for civic engagement that can foster the development of a city's multi-modal policies.

#### **Equity Approach**

Applicants are encouraged to propose events with a strong focus on equity, and additional points are awarded to events proposed in resource challenged communities as defined by the CalEnviroScreen and [Metro Equity Focused Communities Map](#).

#### **Eligibility**

With a focus on regional equity, Cycle Five applications are open to Los Angeles County city and county jurisdictions as well as Council of Government offices. Funding may be distributed to more than one event per city/jurisdiction until the maximum funding allocation is reached. Applicants shall rank applications for 2 or more events in order of priority with 1 being the most important, 2 being the second most important, etc.

#### **Funding**

There is up to \$5 million available for grants for the Open and Slow Streets Grant Program Cycle Five. There are no minimum funding guarantees per applicant jurisdiction or event. Any city/jurisdiction, or a combined multi-jurisdictional team, can apply for a maximum of \$500,000 per single event. Any agreement on funding distributions among jurisdictions participating in a multi-jurisdictional event must be negotiated directly between the applicant and all other jurisdictions that are participating in the event.

There is no guarantee that applicant will receive full funding request. If the grant applicant is unable to accept the amended award amount and commit to producing the event as scoped, the award will be available to the next highest scoring application. Funds will be available starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, pending Metro Board approval and events must be staged by December 31, 2025. Funding sources may be federal, and cities/jurisdictions will be required to comply with all federal funding procedures and requirements.

#### **Scoring**

Project will be evaluated on the following criteria on a 100-point score. An event must receive a minimum of 70 points to be eligible for funding. Innovative events that

differentiate themselves from past Los Angeles County Open Street events are highly favored in the scoring process.

## General Event Information – 10 points

### Project Feasibility – 20 points

Proposed partnerships and demonstration of potential for event success*	5
Event readiness (Funds will be required to be expended by December 31, 2025)	4
Agency's existing active transportation programs and policies	4
Community support	4
Matching funds committed	3

\* Partners may include but are not limited to COGs, community groups, event producers and non-profits. Previous grantees must demonstrate success with previous events and lessons learned. New applicants must demonstrate that they have the capacity to hold an Open Street event.

### Route Setting – 46 points

Route is innovative (Examples include evening events, weekday events, holiday events, multi-day events, themed events, events that encourage increased local retail/stakeholder participation, extended routes, and events that differentiate themselves from previous LA County Open and Slow Street events)	12
Route includes equity focused communities*	10
Proximity and access to commercial and retail corridors	5
Connections to cultural, architectural, historical and/or important destinations in the community	5
Event cost per mile	5
Route is along or intersects with existing bicycle infrastructure**	3
Topography - The route minimizes hilly terrain***	3
Route length (longer routes are encouraged)	3

\*Based on average of 70th percentile CalEnviroScreen Score for census tracts directly adjacent to the proposed route (<http://oehha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=112d915348834263ab8ecd5c6da67f68>)

\*\*Will the route be on or intersect any existing bicycle infrastructure? Will the route encourage first time riders to modify their travel behavior in the future?

\*\*\* As an example, see San Francisco's "Wiggle" - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TheWiggle>

### Transit and Community Connectivity - 24 points

Route includes multiple jurisdictions	5
Applicant jurisdiction has not had a previous Open Street event in their community	4
Connections between multiple central business districts or retail corridors	5
Plan to attract participants from throughout the surrounding community	4
Accessibility by Public Transit	2
Data Collection and Surveys Requirement Approach (see attached)	4

## **Funding Eligibility**

Funding may be used for pre-event planning & outreach costs in conjunction with implementing an Open Street event or Slow Street corridor. Funding may be used for any operational or capital cost associated with the day-of event excluding activation/routing held off-street unless approved in writing by the Open Streets Grant Program Manager. Funding may not be used for alcohol-related activities. Funds awarded will not exceed the event cost in the original application and may be less if the key objectives can be achieved at lower costs. Nonmaterial scope and event changes shall be handled administratively and be approved by Metro's Program Manager. Any cost overruns shall be the responsibility of the applicant. Both third party consulting costs and internal staff costs for directly providing services with respect to the project will be eligible for funding. Funding may be used for treatments, outreach, and associated planning and implementation costs to restrict or completely limit automobile use for any number of days throughout the grant cycle. Eligible street closure treatments include way finding, signage, delineators, A-frames, K-rail, and other street closure infrastructure. Street furniture or other programming will be the sole responsibility of the Grantee.

## **Data Collection and Reporting Requirements**

The grantee shall collect data that should be provided to Metro in a post-implementation spreadsheet no later than three months after the event is executed. Metro will withhold ten percent (10%) of eligible expenditures per invoice as retainage. Metro will release retainage after Metro has evaluated Grantee's post-implementation report and data collection performance according to the criteria specified by Metro. Data collection will include at a minimum but not be limited to: participation counts of pedestrians and cyclists along the route; and economic quantitative and qualitative impact on local retailers such as anecdotes and event change in sales compared to pre-event sales. A survey sample is available here: [OpenStreets Exhibit C Standardized Data Collection Template](#).

## **General and Administrative Conditions Lapsing Policy**

Open Streets Cycle Five events must be staged by December 31, 2025. Date changes/confirmation of the date of the event/events after an application is submitted and awarded will require Metro Project Manager approval in advance. Funds not expended by this date will lapse. Lapsed funding will go towards the next grant cycle of the Open and Slow Streets Program. Applicants who have their funds lapse may reapply for funding in the next cycle, however new applicants and applicants from previously successful events will be prioritized.

## **Grant Agreement**

Each awarded applicant must execute a grant agreement with Metro before the event. The agreement will include the event scope and a financial plan reflecting the grant amount, event partners and the local match. Funding will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis subject to satisfactory compliance with the original application cost and schedule as demonstrated in a quarterly report supported by a detailed invoice showing the staff and hours billed to the project, any consultant hours, etc. Final scheduled

payment will be withheld until the event is staged and approved by Metro and all post-implementation requirements have been satisfied.

### **Audits and Event Scheduling**

All grant programs may be audited for conformance to their original application. Metro shall review event schedule and final date of the event to ensure regional and scheduling distribution. At Metro's Program Manager's request events may be rescheduled to avoid overlapping events and to increase participant safety.

## **APPLICATION**

### **General Information**

1. City/Government Agency Name:
2. Project Manager Name:
3. Project Manager Title and Department:
4. Project Manager Phone Number:
5. Project Manager E-mail Address:
6. City Manager Name:
7. City Manager Phone Number:
8. City Manager E-mail Address:

### **General Open Street Event Information**

9. Open Street Event Name

(Example: Sunnyside Sunday Parkways Open Street Event.) *Maximum Allowed: 150 characters.*

10. Event Description

(Example: Main Street, Flower Street, Spring Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Broadway Avenue in downtown Sunnyside will be closed to cars from downtown to mid-town to invite people on foot and on bikes to rediscover the streets of their community in a car-free environment. Local retailers and restaurants will be invited to expand their operation into the street. A health fair, yoga in the street, booths from local community organizations, and an art show will be included in the route.)

*Maximum Allowed: 500 characters.*

11. Estimated Route Length (in miles):

*Maximum Allowed: 4 digits.*

12. Estimated Number of Signalized Intersections:

*Maximum Allowed: 3 digits*

13. Attach a map of the proposed route including a clear demarcation of event bounds by street name. A digital map made in Google maps or ArcGIS is preferred.

14. Describe the pavement quality along the route and any considerations that will be made for poor quality pavement.

*Maximum Allowed: 150 characters.*

15. Does the event route cross any freeway on or off ramps? (Y/N)

If “YES” for Question 15

15a. How many freeway crossings exist along the proposed route and what are their locations? (NOTE: Additional coordination with CalTrans will be required for each freeway ramp crossing at the cost of the grantee).

*Maximum Allowed: 150 characters*

16. Does the event include rail grade crossings? (Y/N)

If “YES” for Question 16

16A. How many grade crossing exist along the proposed route and what are their locations? (NOTE: Additional staff resources will be required for each grade crossing at the cost of grantee).

*Maximum Allowed: 150 characters*

17. Municipal and private motorized vehicles are prohibited from the route for the entirety of the event. List how your jurisdiction will monitor the route without motorized vehicles; what measures will be taken to ensure that vehicles do not enter the route, and any other safety measures that will be taken.

*Maximum Allowed: 300 characters*

### **Project Feasibility**

18. Estimated day of the week, month, day, and year of Event

(Funds will be available starting in January 1, 2024, pending Metro Board approval. Event must be staged by December 31, 2025)

***Example: Sunday, April 11, 2025***

19. Does your City’s General Plan or other planning program support open street events and/or active transportation?

(Examples include: adopted a Complete Streets Policy or Updated Circulation Element to include Complete Streets, adopted a Bike Plan, adopted a Pedestrian Plan, Developing

or implementing Bike Share Programs, adopted Climate Action Plans, and Implementation of Parking Management Programs to encourage more efficient use of parking resources)

*Maximum Allowed: 500 characters*

20. Would your jurisdiction be amenable to reduced scope or route length? (Y/N)

### **Demonstration of Event Success**

21. Does your city plan to partner with any non-profits, event production companies and other community partners to assist in event implementation and planning? (Y/N)

If "YES" for question 21

21a. List your proposed partners and their role in the event planning and implementation:

*Maximum Allowed: 600 Characters*

If "NO" for question 21

21b. What is your city doing in lieu of partnerships with outside agencies (including non-profits and other community partners) to engage the community and make the event successful? *Maximum Allowed: 800 Characters*

22. Does your city have previous experience organizing open street events or other large public events (such as large city-wide or region-wide events related to transportation, athletics, cultural celebrations and/or events that require street closures)? List and describe.

*Maximum Allowed: 800 Characters*

If "YES" for question 22

22a. What lessons has your city learned from previous open street (or similar) events that will increase the success of the proposed event? *Maximum Allowed: 800 Characters*

### **Event Budget**

23. What is the total estimated cost of the event?

*Maximum Allowed: 10 characters.*

24. What is the requested grant amount? *Maximum Allowed: 10 characters*

25. What is the proposed local match amount? (min 20% in-kind required)

*Maximum Allowed: 10 characters.*

26. What are the estimated outreach costs?

*Maximum Allowed: 10 characters.*

27. What are the estimated pre-event planning costs?

*Maximum Allowed: 10 characters.*

28. What are the estimated day(s) of event(s) staging costs (including staffing, rentals, permits, etc.)?

*Maximum Allowed: 7 characters.*

29. Agencies are required to provide a 20% match: Will you provide an in-kind or a local fund match?

- In-kind
- Local Fund Match

30. What is the event cost per mile (Answer to #23 / Answer #11)?

31. Attach a completed [Open Streets Financial Plan and Event Scope of Work](#)

### **Route Setting**

32. Will the route connect multiple cities? Y/N

List all partner cities.

If “YES” to question 32

32a. How will your city insure connectivity throughout the route, coordination between multiple agencies and a sense of one contiguous event?

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

33. Will the route be along or connect to commercial corridors? Y/N Explain. *Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

34. Will the route be along any residential corridors? (Y/N)

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters*

If “YES” to question 34

34a. How will your city ensure connectivity throughout the route, a sense of one contiguous event through residential areas, and that participants do not feel isolated from the more active commercial areas of the event?

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

35. Will the route be along any industrial or institutional corridors (such as large medical centers, universities, or fairgrounds)? (Y/N)

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters*

If “YES” to question 34

35a. How will your city insure connectivity throughout the route, a sense of one contiguous event through industrial/institutional areas, and that participants do not feel isolated from the more active commercial areas of the event?

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

36. Will the route be along or connect to cultural, architectural, recreational and/or

historical destinations and events? Y/N Explain.

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

37. List and describe the bicycle and off-street pedestrian infrastructure along or adjacent to the route. *Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

38. What is the elevation change between the highest and lowest points along the proposed route? (Tip: you can use a free website like [www.mapmyride.com](http://www.mapmyride.com) or google maps to calculate this information).

39. Will the event be innovative? Y/N

If “YES” to question 39

39a. List ways that the event will deviate from previous LA County Open Street events and how it will attract new participants (examples include afternoon or evening events, events that celebrate holidays or other special occasions such as Valentine’s Day and Halloween, events that encourage increased retail/stakeholder participation, etc.).

40. Provide an outline of the general programming elements/ideas/goals that will be represented in activities along the route the day of the event (an example is public health goals will be highlighted by fitness classes such as yoga along the route).

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters.*

41. Use 40. Use EnviroScreen score to determine the average score of the combined census tracts that are located directly adjacent to the route.

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

*Maximum Allowed: 4 digits*

### **Regional Significance**

42. List all rail stations within a 1/2 mile radius of the event route.

*Maximum Allowed: 250 characters*

43. For those rail stations within a 1/2 mile radius of the event route that do not connect directly to the route, please provide explanation for the lack of connection, and describe how you will ensure safe transport of participants from those stations to the route (including coordination with the station operators and other means).

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters*

44. How will your city transport people to the event other than by personal automobile? Explain how you will use organized bike trains/feeder rides (groups of people who travel by bike together), bike-bus shuttles (that carry a minimum of 10 bikes each) or other multi-modal options to transport people to the event, particularly if no Metro Rail or other rail option is available.

*Maximum Allowed: 1000 characters*

### **Marketing and Outreach**

45. Briefly describe the marketing strategy you will employ to encourage event participation from nearby jurisdictions and throughout the county. *Maximum allowed: 150 characters*
46. What strategies will you employ to encourage increased participation of businesses located along the event route (examples include temporary suspension of sidewalk display permitting, workshops, door-to-door outreach, etc.)? *Maximum allowed 150 characters*
47. Upload a letter of support from the city/county applicant and if applicable each city/non-profit/other partner. (Please include all letters in one PDF).
48. Describe how your city will satisfy Metro's data collection requirements (i.e. agency staff, volunteers, consultant, etc.) and any additional event data the agency may collect.
49. If your agency plans to submit more than one application, please rank this application in order of priority with 1 being the most important and 2 the second most important, etc.