



Metrolink FY 26 Annual Work Program

Finance, Budget and Audit Committee

June 18, 2025



Recommendations

- A. APPROVING programming the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's ("Metro") share of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Operating, Rehabilitation, and Capital Budget in the amount of \$216,565,092 as described in Attachment A;
- B. EXTENDING the lapsing dates for funds previously allocated to SCRRA for State of Good Repair (SGR) and capital project Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) as follows:
 - Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) Replacement Project extended from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026
 - FY 2016-17 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026
 - FY 2017-18 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2026
 - FY 2018-19 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027
 - FY 2019-20 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2027
 - FY 2020-21 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027
 - Doran Street Grade Separation Project extended from March 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027
 - LINK US Task 2 Project extended from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026;

Recommendations

- C. APPROVING the FY 2025-26 Transfers to Other Operators' payment rate of \$1.10 per boarding to Metro and an EZ Pass reimbursement cap to Metro of \$5,592,000; and
- D. AUTHORIZING the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements between Metro and SCRRA for the approved funding.

Metrolink Pre-Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Ridership By Line

Metrolink has recovered 70% of its pre-pandemic ridership, steadily making gains despite the impacts of work-from-home and lower office occupancy rates over the past five years (See Table Below).

In April 2025 Metrolink ridership set a new post-pandemic record with over 715,000 boardings.

LINE	PRE-PANDEMIC MONTHLY RIDERSHIP	APRIL 2025 RIDERSHIP	% RECOVERY BY LINE
91/Perris Valley	76,247	75,835	99%
Antelope Valley	158,409	133,224	84%
IEOC	111,099	65,702	59%
Orange County	244,672	142,796	58%
Riverside	79,983	28,051	35%
San Bernardino	254,709	185,214	73%
Ventura	93,342	69,553	75%
Arrow	N/A	15,051	N/A
TOTALS	1,018,460	715,428	70%

Recommendation A: Metrolink Operations for FY 26

- Metro subsidy for Metrolink Operations is \$141,356,992.
 - Reflects Metro's 51.3% share of Metrolink's operating expenses.
 - The 2.6% increase from FY25 is due to annual fixed operating contract escalators of 3% to 5%, costs to implement new FRA regulations, 2028 Olympic readiness.
 - Member agencies are now funding 78% of Metrolink's operating expenses, compared to 49% pre-COVID due to COVID-related ridership declines.
 - Metro is encouraging Metrolink to develop strategies to address these rising costs.
 - Metrolink is implementing a new fare structure and the new 50% Student Youth Discount Program to increase ridership and revenue.

Recommendations (Continued)

- Metro subsidy for Metrolink Rehabilitation and Capital projects is proposed at \$75,208,100.
 - Metro's share for 38 Rehabilitation projects is \$67,808,550.
 - Metro's share for 9 Capital projects is \$7,399,550.
 - Metro's share is 49% of the FY 2025-26 Rehabilitation and Capital budget request.

- Requested action extends five State of Good Repair Memorandums of Understanding and three capital project Memorandums of Understanding that lapse in FY 2025.

- Includes approval for the FY26 Transfers to Other Operators reimbursement rate to Metro.

Equity and Race Platform

- The recommendations provide residents, workers, students, and families with a regional public transportation option to access jobs, resources, and services across the Los Angeles region.
- Metrolink enables residents who may not be able to afford to live in high-cost areas to access quality jobs and services in those areas while living in more affordable neighborhoods. These neighborhoods include Equity Focus Communities, such as Palmdale/Lancaster, the East San Fernando Valley, El Monte, Pomona, and Gateway Cities.
- Metrolink establishes its own equity-based programs separate from Metro.

Next Steps

- Metrolink will approve their FY 2025-26 budget and member agency contributions at their June 27, 2025, board meeting.
- Metro staff will attend the Metrolink board meeting and inform Metro Board of any items that may require further board action.
- Metro CEO will execute the FY 2025-26 Metrolink Memorandum of Understanding.