



Open and Slow Streets Grant Program Update 2026-0432

Planning & Programming Committee
July 15, 2026

Recommendation

APPROVE the staff recommendation to provide assistance to local jurisdictions to use Local Return and TDA Article 3 as the only available funding for Open and Slow Street events occurring between September 2026 and March 2028.

Background

On December 4, 2025, the Metro Board approved Open and Slow Streets Program Cycles 6 and 7 and amended the Board report to direct the CEO to report back on the following series of recommendations and analysis:

- A. Make Metro's Open and Slow Streets pilot program permanent, including soliciting input from community stakeholders, previous event organizers, and partnering agencies to identify recommendations to transition the Metro Open and Slow Streets Program from a pilot to a permanent program;**
- B. Initiate an abbreviated Open and Slow Streets Grant Cycle and identify a minimum of \$1 million to support waitlisted and/or new events that celebrate the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games that will occur between September 2026 and March 2028; and**
- C. Offer technical assistance, including but not limited to the identification of alternative sources of funding and partnering on external grant applications, to support agencies and organizations that were waitlisted or ineligible for funding in the Open and Slow Streets Grant Program Cycles Six and Seven.**

Response by Issue Area

A. Permanent Program

Staff to return to Board in late 2028 with recommendations, inclusive of Cycle 6 and 7 evaluation.

B. Abbreviated Cycle

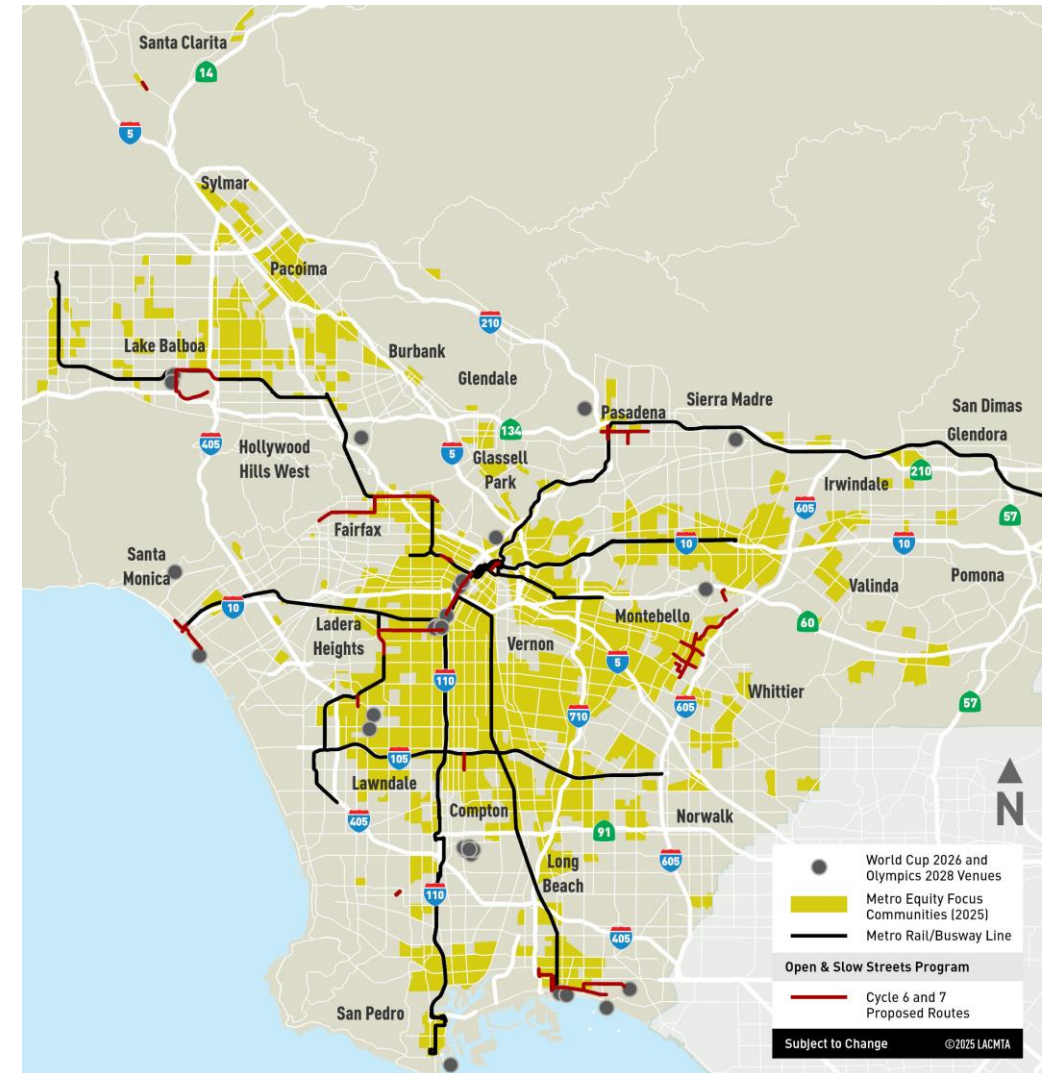
Funding is broadly available in locally programmed categories including Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3, and Local Return (Grand Total Local Return Fund Balance FY25: \$1,982,814,935) from various sales tax measures.

C. Technical Assistance

Staff will provide technical assistance to event sponsors focused on identifying and programming available funding, coordinating event logistics and planning, and disseminating best practices tied to program objectives.

Equity

- 25 (86%) of the 29 events funded in Cycles 6 and 7 are located in Equity Focus Communities (EFCs).
- Applicants were:
 - Encouraged to focus on EFCs while also addressing the diverse needs of communities.
 - Required to explain how their event would reach marginalized communities through their route proposal, outreach, programming, and other considerations.
 - Encouraged to partner with CBOs or non-profits; if they couldn't, they were advised to describe how they would reach the community.



Next Steps

Staff will continue collecting feedback from program stakeholders and community members. Staff will develop Cycle 8 program recommendations based on this feedback as well as extensive evaluation of Cycle 6 and 7 funded events. Staff will present Cycle 8 program recommendations to the Board in 2028.