

**Round 3 - Congestion Reduction  
ExpressLanes Net Toll Revenue Re-Investment Grant  
Project Eligibility Guidelines**

**I. Overview**

The generation of net toll revenues from the ExpressLanes offers a unique opportunity to advance the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) goals for a more sustainable countywide transportation system.

The objective of the Program is to increase mobility through a series of integrated strategies (transit operations, transportation demand management, transportation systems management, active transportation, and capital investments) in the I-10 and I-110 corridors. These combined strategies have resulted in more reliable and stable outcomes and greater magnitude of positive change than a single strategy scenario. An expenditure plan that retains this focus on integrated strategies and multi-modalism would advance Metro's LRTP and sustainability goals as outlined in Metro's Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy (CSPP).

**II. Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include public agencies that provide transportation facilities or services within Los Angeles County. These include cities, transit operators, the County of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Transportation-related public joint powers authorities and non-profit agencies must partner with a public agency serving as lead to be eligible.

**III. Eligible Projects**

To be eligible for funds, the project/program must operate along or within three miles of either the I-10 Corridor (between Alameda Street to the west and the El Monte Transit Center to the east) or I-110 Corridor (defined as Adams Boulevard to the north and the Harbor Gateway Transit Center to the south) (see attached map). A project/program beyond the 3 mile radius will also be eligible if it can be determined that it is regionally significant and provides a direct benefit to the I-10 or I-110 corridors. Regional significance is defined as those projects that are multi-jurisdictional, and/or are included in, or consistent with, the Metro LRTP, the Metro Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy and Implementation Plan, or other relevant sub-regional plan.

Projects and programs are recommended for three categories to promote the LRTP and sustainable transportation strategies as an integral enhancement to the Metro ExpressLanes. A category for Transit Use is recommended because operation of high

frequency transit and feeder service as well as transit capital improvements have proven to be effective in creating mode shift and reducing congestion on the Metro ExpressLanes. A category for System Connectivity/Active Transportation primarily serves to improve bicycle and/or pedestrian infrastructure and to improve system connectivity between transit and the state highway. This category also demonstrates Metro's commitment to advance sustainable community strategies since Metro currently does not have a discretionary fund source eligible to fund operational activities associated with Active Transportation projects. A category for roadway improvements is recommended to encourage operational and system improvements to the adjacent roadways rather than focusing on improvements through expansion.

a) Transit Uses - eligible projects include:

- Purchase of new bus or commuter rail vehicles for service enhancement or new service
- Fare subsidy/operating subsidy
- Station enhancements and capacity improvements, including enhanced bus shelters, real-time arrival information, ticket vending machines (TVM) and other related improvements
- Regional Bus Maintenance facility improvements
- Transit corridor projects serving ExpressLanes corridors
- Rideshare/Vanpool programs (\* May qualify for System Connectivity/Active Transportation funding if project creates shorter length trips of 3 miles or less.)

b) System Connectivity/Active Transportation – eligible projects include:

- First mile/last mile connections to transit facilities, focusing on multimodal elements recommended as part of the First/Last Mile Strategic Plan including investments that might support 3<sup>rd</sup> party mobility solutions (car-share, bike-share)
- Complete Streets projects which emphasize multi-modalism and consider the needs of motorists, pedestrians, transit users, bicyclists, commercial and emergency vehicles
- Bicycle infrastructure including bicycle lanes and secured bicycle parking facilities
- Pedestrian enhancements such as street crossings and ADA-compliance improvements
- Operating subsidy for bike parking, bike-share, and car-share
- Infrastructure and programs to support the use of electric vehicles
- Park-n-Ride facility improvements including restrooms, lighting, and security

c) Roadway Improvements

- Intelligent transportation system improvements to manage demand

- On/off ramp improvements connecting to city streets which reduce the incidents of bicycle and pedestrian collisions with vehicles
- Graffiti removal and landscaping suited to the Southern California ecology. For example, vegetation that does not contribute to smog and requires little or no irrigation. Additionally, landscaping with a high carbon sequestration factor and/or which provides habitat to environmentally sensitive species is favorable
- Subject to Metro Board approval, extension of the ExpressLane corridors

To the extent possible, applicants must utilize green design techniques that minimize the environmental impact of transportation projects and/or support local urban greening initiatives.

If applicant is seeking funding for transit operations or roadway maintenance, the service/maintenance must either be new service/maintenance meeting a previously unmet need in the corridor or must increase service for existing lines in the corridor. Funding cannot be used to supplant existing service.

Applications submitted for planning/feasibility studies or outreach will not be accepted unless these components are part of a larger capital/infrastructure project/program within the corridor.

#### IV. Project Selection Process

Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

<b>Transit Uses and Roadway Improvements:</b>
<b>A. Mobility Benefits (up to 25 points) *Up to 10 points given for projects that demonstrate a significant benefit to EFCs</b>
<b>B. Innovative Transportation Technology, Practices and Strategies (up to 15 points) *5 points will be given to those applicants that partner with a non-profit agency.</b>
<b>C. Implementation of Regional and Local Sustainability Plans and Policies (up to 15 points)</b>
<b>D. Local Match (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>E. Cost Effectiveness (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>F. Safety (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>G. Project Implementation Readiness (up to 15 points)</b>

<b>System Connectivity/Active Transportation:</b>
<b>A. Mobility Benefits (up to 20 points) *Up to 10 points given for projects that demonstrate a significant benefit to EFCs</b>
<b>B. Innovative Transportation Technology, Practices and Strategies (up to 15 points)</b>
<b>C. Implementation of Regional and Local Sustainability Plans and Policies (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>D. Local Match (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>E. Cost Effectiveness (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>F. Safety (up to 10 points)</b>
<b>G. Project Implementation Readiness (up to 15 points)</b>
<b>H. Non-profit Partnership (up to 10 points)</b>

#### V. Funding Priorities

Baseline targets of 40% of available funds for Transit Uses, 40% for System Connectivity/Active Transportation, and 20% for Roadway Improvements are identified as goals; however, the actual allocation of the funding will be based on the merits of the proposed projects and programs received.

#### VI. Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are development phase activities (including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities) and the costs of construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of right-of-way, environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment, and operational improvements.

#### VII. Non-Eligible Costs

Costs such as office equipment, furniture, office leases or space cost allocations or similar costs, applicant staff overtime costs, mileage reimbursements, and travel costs.

## VIII. Other Conditions

- Applicants must maintain their existing commitment of local, discretionary funds for street and roadway maintenance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and storm damage repair in order to remain eligible for Net Toll Revenue funds to be expended for streets and roads.
- All applicants must collect before and after data. (i.e., pedestrian and bicycle counts, transit ridership, vehicle throughput, speed, and volumes). The cost of this task may be included in the project budget.
- Grant funds received cannot be used to supplant, replace, or reduce the project sponsor’s previously required match for any other grant program including Metro’s Call for Projects.
- Applicants shall ensure that all Communication Materials contain the recognition of Metro’s contribution to the project, program, or service. Sponsor shall ensure that at a minimum, all Communication Materials include the phrase “This project/program/service was partially funded by Metro ExpressLanes.”
- PSR/PDS and PSRE – For projects that include a construction element, an approved Project Study Report/Project development Support (PSR/PDS) or Project Study Report Equivalent (PSRE) **is not required**.
- Project Funding Request Caps – there are no project funding request caps for any of the 3 categories.
- All project funding provided will be local funds. There are no federal or state dollars available through this program.
- All approved projects will adhere to Metro’s Living Wage policy and be required to ensure that any new jobs created will be located within the region. Any projects that result in job creation outside of the Los Angeles County region will not be eligible.
- Quarterly Progress /Expenditure Reports – All applicants that receive funding will be required to submit to Metro a Quarterly Progress/Expenditure Report based on this schedule:

Quarter Ending	Quarterly progress/Expenditure Report Due to Metro
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	May 31 <sup>st</sup>

June 30 <sup>th</sup>	August 31 <sup>st</sup>
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	November 30 <sup>th</sup>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	February 28 <sup>th</sup>

- Audits – All grant program funding is subject to Metro audit. The findings of the audit are final.

**IX. Schedule (dates are estimated and may change)**

Board Approval of Application Package	April 2023
Distribution of Application Package	April 2023
Applicant Workshop	June 2023
Deadline for Grant Submissions	August 2023
Presentation of Projects to CAGs	August 2023
Recommendation of Projects to Metro Board for Approval	September or October 2023

**X. General Administrative Conditions**

**a) Duration of Project**

Project schedules must demonstrate that the project can be completed within 36 months of award.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Each awarded applicant must execute a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with LACMTA which includes the statement of work, financial plan reflecting any local match provided (if applicable), schedule of milestones and deliverables. The schedule and milestones must reflect the **project will be completed within 36 months** from the date of award.

**b) Grant Agreement Lapsing Policy**

Grantee must demonstrate timely use of the Funds by:

- (i) Executing a grant Agreement within **six (6) months** of receiving formal transmittal of the grant agreement boilerplate;
- (ii) Begin expenditure of funds within one **(1) year** of executing the agreement to avoid potential lapsing of funds;
- (iii) Meeting the Project milestones due dates as stated in the Statement of Work;
- (iv) Timely submittal of the Quarterly Progress/Expenditure Reports; and

(v) Invoicing of all expenditures incurred within forty two **(42) months** from the date funds are available

If the Grantee fails to meet any of the above conditions, the Project may be considered lapsed and may be submitted to the Board for deobligation.

In the event that the timely use of the Funds is not demonstrated, the Project will be reevaluated as part of the annual Net Toll Re-investment Grant Deobligation process and the Funds may be deobligated and reprogrammed to another project by the Board.

Administrative extensions may be granted under the following conditions:

- (i) Project delay due to an unforeseen and extraordinary circumstance beyond the control of the project sponsor (legal challenge, act of God, etc.). Inadequate staffing shall not be considered a basis for administrative extensions.
- (ii) Project delay due to an action that results in a change in scope or schedule that is mutually agreed upon by Metro and the project sponsor prior to the extension request.
- (iii) Project fails to meet completion milestone; however, public action on the proposed regulatory change(s) has been scheduled and noticed to occur within 60 days of the scheduled completion milestone.

Appeals to any recommended deobligation will be heard by a Metro appeals panel. If Grantee does not complete an element of the Project, as described in the Statement of Work, due to all or a portion of the Funds lapsing, the entire Project may be subject to deobligation at Metro's sole discretion.

In the event that all the Funds are reprogrammed, the Project shall automatically terminate.

#### **XI. New Program Requirements:**

- Project sponsors must execute their funding agreement within six (6) months of receipt of the agreement from Metro and begin expenditure of funds within one (1) year of executing the agreement to avoid potential lapsing of funds.
- Metro ExpressLanes believes the non-profit community plays a vital role in helping Los Angeles County become more sustainable. The experience, programs, networks, and commitment of the region's non-profit agencies provide a foundation for increased public engagement, positive behavior change, and community commitment; therefore, we are recommending wherever possible for eligible applicants to partner with a non-profit organization to deliver projects/programs. Collaborating with community based organizations (CBOs) in the planning and operations of public agencies increases equitable

outcomes, public participation and can foster trust between the community and public agencies. Metro’s CBO Strategy Recommendations establishes consistent and equitable processes for Metro to utilize across the agency when directly or indirectly engaging CBOs for professional services. The Strategy can be found at [CBO-Partnering-Strategy.pdf \(dropbox.com\)](#).

- All project applicants must collect before and after data. (i.e., pedestrian and bicycle counts, transit ridership, vehicle throughput, speed, and volumes). The cost of this task may be included in the project budget.
- Applications submitted for planning/feasibility studies or outreach will not be accepted unless these components are part of a larger capital/infrastructure project/program within the corridor.
- All approved projects will adhere to Metro’s Living Wage policy and be required to ensure that any new jobs created will be located within the region. Any projects that result in job creation outside of the Los Angeles County region will not be eligible.

