

Metro ExpressLanes Round 2 Net Toll Revenue Reinvestment Guidelines

The generation of net toll revenues from the **Metro ExpressLanes program** offers a unique opportunity to advance the Long Range Transit 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 and person throughput 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 consistently shown to result 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).

The guideline principles are summarized as follows:

1. Reinvestments in the transportation corridor provide a direct benefit to reducing congestion on the Metro ExpressLanes (I-10 and I-110);
2. Establish a reserve fund consistent with the Board Approved Toll Policy to ensure financial sustainability of the Metro ExpressLanes;
3. Direct allocation of revenue to support the incremental transit service implemented to support the deployment of the Metro ExpressLanes. The incremental services include Metro Silver Line, Foothill Silver Streak, Foothill Route 699, Gardena Line 1, and Torrance Transit Line 4;
4. **Direct allocation of revenue to Caltrans for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), deck rehabilitation, on/off ramp and mainline improvements that benefit the ExpressLanes Corridors. Caltrans will be precluded from seeking additional funding from the competitive grant. 50% of Caltrans's funding will be tied to the agency's ability to meet agreed-upon timelines.**
5. Net of set-asides identified in #2, #3 & 4 above, establish allocation targets of 40% for Transit Uses, 40% for Active Transportation, and 20% for **Roadway** Improvements to support sustainable transportation strategies; and
6. Leverage net toll revenues with other funding sources. Locally sponsored capital projects and operating programs are encouraged. The funding will be mutually determined by Metro and the lead agency, proportionate to the local and regional benefits of the project or program.

Note: Guidelines would be amended by the Board to address changed circumstances such as the ability to bond against the toll revenues or any subsequent policy changes adopted by the Board.

Sustainability

The LRTP and the CSPP identify principles and priorities to be advanced through a broad range of activities across all modes. The principles/priorities include:

- Connect People and Places
 - Access – Better integrating land-use and transportation planning to reduce trip lengths and increase travel choices
 - Prosperity – Reduce transportation costs for residents and provide the mobility necessary to increase economic competitiveness
 - Green Modes – Promote clean mobility options to reduce criteria pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, and dependence on foreign oil
- Create Community Value
 - Community Development – Design and build transportation facilities that promote infill development, build community identity, and support social and economic activity
 - Urban Greening – Enhance and restore natural systems to mitigate the impacts of transportation projects on communities and wildlife, and ecosystems
- Conserve Resources
 - Context Sensitivity – Build upon the unique strengths of Los Angeles County’s communities through strategies that match local and regional context and support investment in existing communities
 - System Productivity – Increase the efficiency and ensure the long-term viability of the multimodal transportation system
 - Environmental Stewardship – Plan and support transportation improvements that minimize material and resource use through conservation, re-use, re-cycling, and re-purposing

Eligible Uses

The LRTP and CSPP identify a number of key concepts which will help outline eligible uses to reduce congestion on the I-10 and I-110 corridors:

- Green Modes
Green modes include active transportation, rideshare, and transit. Given that all three of these modes operate along the I-10 and I-110 corridors, this key concept would make expanded use of the above modes consistent with the Plan.

Such projects include the addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, expanded park-n-ride facilities, expanded service span and/or increased levels of service.

- Bundling Strategies for Greatest Impact

The Metro ExpressLanes, as designed, seeks to increase mobility and person throughput through a series of integrated strategies (transportation demand management, transportation systems management, and multimodal capital investments) in specific corridors. This “bundling of strategies” as referred to in the CSPP has been consistently shown to result in more reliable 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 exemplify guidance from the CSPP. Projects that demonstrate the ability to further link or expand the use of existing facilities such as complete streets improvements and first mile/last mile improvements are recommended.

- Network Optimization

One of the primary objectives of the ExpressLanes project is to better utilize existing capacity within a corridor by using dynamic pricing. This approach of network optimization through the use of data represents the future of transportation policy and planning. To that end, the Policy also identified the concept of network optimization as a key component of sustainability. Projects falling under this concept include complete streets, signal prioritization, real-time ride share matching, and other smart technology improvements.

- Act Regionally and Locally

The I-10 and I-110 are two of the busiest corridors in Los Angeles County. Given the regional significance of these corridors, improvements to these facilities as well as additional services utilizing these corridors should emphasize the varying needs of the corridors as well as needs of adjacent communities. Projects which can improve the connection of the local communities to the regional network will be essential to improving the quality of life in those neighborhoods as well as maximizing the potential of the corridors. Projects falling under this concept include first mile/last mile improvements, expanded park-n-ride facilities, expanded service span and/or increased levels of service, and urban greening initiatives which reduce pollution and improve the quality of life for residents.

Based on the key concepts, three project categories are recommended for the allocation of net toll revenues (excluding set-asides):

1. Transit Uses (40% of funds)

- Increased levels of service and/or increased service span
- Fare subsidy programs
- Purchase of new bus and commuter rail vehicles

- Station enhancements and capacity improvements, including intelligent transportation system improvements
 - Metro transit corridor projects serving ExpressLanes corridors
2. System Connectivity/Active Transportation (40% of Funds)
- 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 3rd party mobility solutions (car-share, bike-share)
 - Complete streets projects which emphasize multi-modalism
 - Bicycle infrastructure including bicycle lanes and secured bicycle parking facilities
 - Pedestrian enhancements including on/off-ramp safety improvements, street crossings, and ADA-compliance improvements
 - Infrastructure and programs to support the use of electric vehicles.
 - Bus station improvements including enhanced bus shelters, real-time arrival information, and other related improvements
 - El Monte Bus Maintenance facility
 - Rideshare/Vanpool programs
 - Park-n-Ride facility improvements including restrooms, lighting, and security.
 - 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 provides habitat to environmentally sensitive species is favorable.
3. Highway Roadway Improvements (20% of funds)
- Intelligent transportation system improvements to manage demand
 - **Signal Synchronization programs**
 - On/off ramp improvements 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 provides habitat to environmentally sensitive species is favorable
 - Subject to Metro Board approval, extension of the ExpressLanes corridors

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

Project Evaluation Criteria

Implementation of Regional and Local Sustainability Plans and Policies

- The extent to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service supports the recommendations and goals for each transportation mode as stated in the LACMTA's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan and SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)
- Extent to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service conforms to local plans to support the implementation of sustainable projects, including transit-oriented development and bicycle and pedestrian master plans

Matching Funds/Leveraging Funds

- Extent to which project, program, or enhanced transit service uses ExpressLanes funds to leverage additional local, state, and/or federal funds

Innovative Transportation Technology

- Extent to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service facilitates the adoption of zero and near-zero emission vehicles
- The degree to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service supports improved transportation systems management strategies

Sustainable Transportation

- Extent to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service increases mobility options to support car-free and/or one-car living
- Extent to which project, program, or enhanced transit service enhances transit coverage, frequency, and reliability within the corridor
- The project, program, or enhanced transit service's connectivity with and ability to complement nearby transit projects
- The degree to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service provides access to regional trip generators, regional activity centers, fixed guideway, and Metrolink, and improves access between jurisdictional or community plan area boundaries
- Extent to which project, program, or enhanced transit service gives priority to transit and active transportation modes
- Extent to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service increases the mode share of transit services operating within the corridor
- The degree to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service provides additional resources for transportation demand management strategies to reduce solo driving
- The degree to which the project, program, or enhanced transit service promote the Metro ExpressLanes.

Cost Effectiveness

- The project, program, or enhanced transit service's cost effectiveness in relationship to the total project cost
- The applicant's demonstrated commitment to covering life-cycle operational and maintenance expenses

Recommended Standard Project Requirements

- Project, program, or enhanced transit service must operate along or within three miles of either the I-110 Corridor (defined as Adams Boulevard to the north and the Harbor Gateway Transit Center to the south) or the I-10 Corridor (between the Alameda Street on the West and the El Monte Transit Center to the east) or provide regionally significant improvements for the 110 or 10 Corridor.
- Project, program, or enhanced transit service must provide direct operational benefits to the operation of the ExpressLanes and/or transit service within the corridors.
- Project, program, or enhanced transit must incorporate, to the extent possible, utilize green design techniques that minimize the environmental impact of transportation projects and/or support local urban greening initiatives.
- 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 Metro. Transportation-related public joint powers authorities must be sponsored by one of the above public agencies. All applicants must be in compliance with Maintenance of Effort requirements.
- **Timely Use of Funds provision: project sponsors must execute their funding agreement within six months of receipt of the agreement from Metro and begin expenditure of funds within one year of executing the agreement to avoid potential lapsing of the funds.**
- If applicant is seeking funding for transit operations or highway 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.
- Applicants must maintain their existing commitment of local, discretionary funds for street and highway maintenance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and storm damage repair in order to remain eligible for Net Toll Revenue funds to be expended for streets and roads.
- Monies cannot be used to supplant, replace, or reduce the project sponsor's previously required match in 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."