Award Recommendations for Recreation Access Competitive Grant Program

PLANNING & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
LEGISTAR 2022-0849
MARCH 15, 2023

Metro

Recommended Action

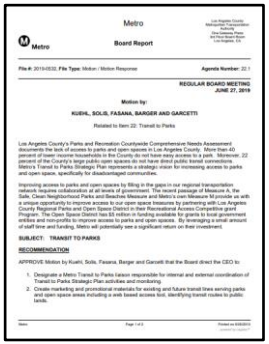
CONSIDER:

A. APPROVING project selection and programming of $1,000,000 for the Recreation Access Competitive Grant Program.

B. AUTHORIZING the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or her designee to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements for approved projects.

C. AUTHORIZING the CEO or her designee to adjust programming amounts including, but not limited to, soliciting additional project applications, shifting funding amounts between the awarded projects, and/or increasing award amounts should additional funding become available.

Background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Board Report

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 27, 2019

Motion by:

KUEHL, SOLIS, FASANA, BARGER AND GARCETTI

Related to Item 22: Transit to Parks

Los Angeles County's Parks and Recreation Countywide Comprehensive Needs Assessment documents the lack of access to parks and open spaces in Los Angeles County. More than 40 percent of County residents live more than a half mile from access to a park. Moreover, 22 percent of the County's large public open spaces do not have direct public transit connections. Metro's Transit to Parks Strategic Plan represents a strategic vision for increasing access to parks and open space, specifically for disadvantaged communities.

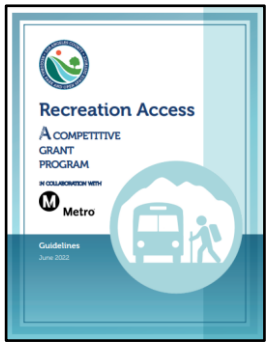
Improving access to parks and open spaces by filling in the gaps in our regional transportation network requires collaboration at all levels of government. The recent passage of Measure A, the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks Measure, and Metro's own Measure M provide us with a unique opportunity to improve access to our open space treasures by partnering with Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District in their Recreational Access Competitive grant Program. The Open Space District has $5 million in funding available for grants to local government entities and non-profits to improve access to parks and open spaces. By leveraging a small amount of staff time and funding, Metro will potentially see a significant return on their investment.

SUBJECT: TRANSIT TO PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Motion by Kuehl, Solis, Fasana, Barger and Garcetti that the Board direct the CEO to:

1. Designate a Metro Transit to Parks liaison responsible for internal and external coordination of Transit to Parks Strategic Plan activities and monitoring.
2. Create marketing and promotional materials for existing and future transit lines serving parks and open space areas including a web based access tool, identifying transit routes to public lands.



COVID-19

June 2019

Metro Board adopts the Transit to Parks Strategic Plan:

"Systematic vision for increasing access to parks and open space countywide"

June 2019 (cont'd)

Metro Board directs staff to do 9 actions (Motion 22.1), including:

"Collaborate with the Los Angeles County [Regional Park and] Open Space District by contributing $1 million in funding to create a grant program for cities and non-profits to fund transit to parks programs and initiatives"

June 2022

County RPOSD, in partnership with Metro, re-releases the Recreation Access Competitive Grant Program. Program opened until September 29, 2022

Recreation Access Competitive Grant Program

Funding Program Overview

- $1M available for transit operations and supportive elements (e.g., wayfinding, marketing, transit stop improvements, programming)
- Connect “Community of Interest” to high-quality park or open space area via transit
- Eligible applicants: transit agencies and public park authorities
- Required to partner with community-based organization
- 10% local match requirement (cash or “in-kind”)

Evaluation and Selection Process

- Two applications received ($1,338,250 total requested)
- Interdepartmental evaluation team
- Both submittals are eligible, scored favorably and recommended for partial award:
  - Mt. Wilson Express Route Development & Operations ($747,244.54)
  - Nature Education Program at the Stone Barn Nature Center in Glendale's Deukmejian Wilderness Park ($252,755.46)

Next Steps

- Execute funding agreements
- Initiate projects
- Updates to adjust programming, if needed