

METRO 2016 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT ASSISTANCE POLICY

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) is an important resource to address the serious deficits to the active transportation infrastructure in Los Angeles County and thereby augment affordable mobility options and achieve safety, health, and sustainability goals. Through Cycles 1 and 2 of the ATP, Metro made up more than \$65 million of the \$90 million shortfall in the Call for Projects funding plan caused by the state's creation of the ATP. Metro can now shift to a voluntary Call for Projects reapplication program, while also beginning a new focus on the overall implementation of Metro-adopted projects, programs, and policies. The following points make up the 2016 ATP grant assistance policy.

Voluntary Reapplication for Call for Projects

Sponsors of ATP-eligible projects funded in the 2015 Call for Projects are encouraged to apply for ATP funds. Projects with a Call for Projects commitment of \$1 million or more and Call funding in Fiscal Years (FY) 2019 through 2021 may receive grant writing assistance. These projects are listed on Attachment D.

- A. ATP funds secured by Call projects will be used to address the shortfall and/or augment the capacity of the Metro Call for Projects Funding Plan.
- B. Call for Projects sponsors applying to the ATP with Metro grant assistance may use updated scope of work or cost estimate information as long as the updated scope of work is consistent with or includes the original scope of work. However, should such projects not be awarded ATP funds, Metro is responsible only for the prior Call for Projects commitment amount.
- C. Should a successful Call project receive no ATP award, or an award in an amount less than its original Call commitment, or have its award reduced through Caltrans eligibility reviews, Metro will provide Call funding, as available and applicable, to complete the original Call for Projects Commitment.
- D. Project sponsors will not be required to provide a local match. However local match is encouraged for strategic reasons. Local match earns scoring points and project sponsors may use all or a portion of the overmatch, upon receiving a fully-executed Letter of No Prejudice from Metro, to advance the planning, design, or right-of-way activities for a project in order to ensure timely readiness for construction.

Applications to Implement Metro Board-Adopted Projects, Programs, and Policies

Projects with Metro Board commitment, or which directly contribute to the implementation of Metro Board-adopted policies and programs may also request grant writing assistance through a Letter of Interest. Qualifying Metro plans and policies include:

- Active Transportation Plan*
- Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan
- Blue Line First/Last Mile Implementation Plan*
- Complete Streets Policy
- First/Last Mile Strategic Plan
- Urban Greening Policy and Toolkit

* Plan applicability is subject to the plan completion date fit with ATP Cycle 3 commencement date. Cycle 3 commencement date is scheduled for mid-March, but a deferral is under discussion.

Process

To assist project sponsors and ensure continuing advantageous outcomes from the ATP, Metro may provide no-cost grant-writing assistance for projects selected according to the following process.

- A. Agencies must confirm in writing that they wish to take advantage of the assistance and that they understand and will commit to putting forth the full effort required for the ATP application process as described below. Metro staff will identify the projects for assistance, and notify project sponsors. Priority will be placed on projects which effectively address ATP and Metro goals and provide a local match. Projects requiring under \$1 million in ATP funds will not be considered.
- B. Sponsors will submit a complete set of project description and project planning and development documents and meet with the consultant to initiate the grant assistance. The ATP application process is rigorous, and requires a significant commitment of local jurisdiction effort, even with the assistance of a consultant. Project sponsors are expected to meet to discuss the project, provide additional materials as necessary, review and comment on two application drafts, sign (including engineer review, stamp and multiple initials), produce several hard and electronic copies, and postmark the application by June 1, 2016

Assignment of Up to 10 Points for SCAG Regional Competition Score

- A. Assign seven points to all projects except any that are clearly not in alignment with regional or local plans.
- B. Assign an additional three points to all successful Call projects, all projects with Metro Board commitment, and all projects which implement Metro active transportation plans and policies. Qualifying plans and policies include any plans and policies for which grant writing assistance is allowable.