

Grant Awards and Activities for LB-ELA Corridor Projects

While the Task Force is developing the draft Investment Plan for Board consideration in November 2023, staff have been working with local jurisdictions and partner agencies to support grant activities for projects within the LB-ELA Corridor to take advantage of the unprecedented levels of funding generated through the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) layered on top of existing, ongoing discretionary grant programs offered by the state through the Senate Bill 1 programs administered by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and by other agencies focused on advancing zero emission energy and technology.

At the May 2022 Board meeting, the Metro Board, recognizing these funding opportunities could yield potential investment in the LB-ELA Corridor in 2022 and early 2023, approved Motion #9 by Directors Hahn, Solis, Mitchell, and Dutra (Attachment C) to initiate what ultimately became the Pre-Investment Plan Opportunity (PIPO) that was developed by staff through the Task Force process. Staff also worked with other LB-ELA Corridor agencies to support their grant applications submitted in the same timeframe.

Since May 2022, thanks to the leadership of the Board and the many Task Force stakeholders, \$116.24 million has been awarded to projects within the LB-ELA Corridor. An additional \$ 202.344 million in a multimodal array of projects is recommended for state Senate Bill (SB) 1 funding by the CTC at its June 28-29, 2023, meeting. Included in these recommended awards are three PIPO projects, two of which were provided local funding by the Board through Motion #9 (Attachment C) and the third of which was provided technical assistance and grant support by Metro staff.

Staff will continue to evaluate opportunities to seek grant funding for projects that arise through the remainder of 2023, and report to the Board with such opportunities when timely.

Grant Awards for LB-ELA Corridor Projects

Outside of the PIPO and overall Metro grant program, several projects within the LB-ELA Corridor have successfully obtained grant funding in 2022 and early 2023 from highly competitive federal grant programs.

- In February 2023, the **City of Long Beach** secured a \$30 million USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program award to reconfigure West Shoreline Drive (the initial phase of the Shoemaker Bridge replacement project). The award represented 20% of all funds available nationally for capital projects from the first cycle of this program. This \$69 million project will remove a roadway barrier and improve access and connectivity between Downtown Long Beach and public open space, create a new bicycle path and pedestrian amenities, and divert highway traffic from residential streets to major roads. The

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federal grant will fund planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, and other infrastructure to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. This project shares scope with the SCCP application submitted by Metro.

- In October 2022, the **Port of Long Beach** received a \$30.14 million grant from the USDOT Maritime Administration's FY2022 Port Infrastructure Development Program for the Middle Harbor Terminal Zero Emission Conversion Project. This project will replace diesel yard tractors with approximately 60 electric yard tractors and construct electric equipment charging infrastructure with software to enhance energy efficiency.

Additionally, \$56.1 million in State Active Transportation Program Grants were awarded to the following LB-ELA Corridor jurisdictions:

- **Bell Gardens** – Bell Gardens Complete Streets Project Phase 2 (\$3.0M)
- **Commerce** – Slauson Avenue Corridor & Citywide Pedestrian, Bike, Transit Improvements (\$2.1M)
- **Long Beach** – Mid-City Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections (\$8.8M)
- **City of Los Angeles** – Wilmington Safe Streets: A People-First Approach (\$32.3M)
- **Los Angeles County** – Metro A Line Connections for Unincorporated Los Angeles County (\$9.9M)

Grant Award Recommendations

In addition to these projects awarded funding at the state level, an additional 17 LB-ELA Corridor projects are recommended for **\$202.344 million** in funding by the CTC and will be considered at the Commission's June 28-29, 2023, meeting.

The Regional/MPO portion of the State Active Transportation Program has recommended 13 LB-ELA Corridor projects (11 for Implementation and two [2] for Planning) for a total of **\$74.626 million** in CTC grant awards. These projects are in Carson (2), Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park (the PIPO project), Los Angeles, Maywood, Paramount, Signal Hill, South Gate (2) and unincorporated LA County (2).

On June 8, 2023, CTC staff released its recommendations for grant awards for three major SB 1 program – the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), and the Local Partnership Program-Competitive (LPP-C). An additional four projects from the LB-ELA Corridor were recommended for a total of **\$127.718 million** in funding from these programs. These recommended projects include two from Metro's PIPO – the I-710 Integrated Corridor Management project and the Southeast Los Angeles Transit Improvements Project – that are recommended for a \$27.84 million award from TCEP and a \$14.50 million award from SCCP, respectively. Additionally, CTC staff is recommending \$70.442 million for the Port of Long Beach's America's *Green Port Gateway: Pier B Early Rail*

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project and \$14.936 million for the Port of Los Angeles' *Maritime Support Facility Access – Terminal Island* project.

Collectively, these grant awards recommended for CTC approval would support projects that advance the LB-ELA Task Force's Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles, making investments in local ATP projects to support greater pedestrian and bicycle travel, cleaner technology and greater use of rail at the Ports, improvements for local transit usage, and more efficient and safer travel on I-710 with fewer impacts on local communities due to accidents and freeway closures.

Pending Grant Awards

The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are also awaiting results from the state's Port and Freight Infrastructure Program, which is a one-time funding source to help ease supply chain congestion and increase the capacity to move goods in California. The Port of Long Beach submitted a \$914.9 million request for its System-Wide Investment in Freight Transport (SWIFT) to help support its \$2.1 billion comprehensive approach to modernizing the movement of goods through the port complex. The Port of Los Angeles submitted five projects totaling \$433.5 million that are designed to reduce emissions, improve vital road and rail access, enhance community access to pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure, and provide greater operational efficiencies. Awards are expected to be announced in June 2023.

PIPO Update

With local match funding secured through Board action in September 2022 (Attachment A), staff submitted three grants and provided technical assistance for a fourth grant for projects identified through the PIPO process that had broad Task Force support.

These grants, and their respective status, are as follows:

- In October 2022, Metro submitted an application for the Humphreys Avenue I-710 Bicycle / Pedestrian Overpass Project for the highly competitive federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant program. Metro requested \$8.7 million for the project. Unfortunately, the project was not selected for funding in this program's first cycle, although another Metro-endorsed project, the City of Long Beach's Shoreline Drive Realignment project, was selected and received a major award from this program's first cycle. Staff is reviewing a potential resubmission of this project (potentially augmented in scope) for the same funding program in 2023.
- In November 2022, Metro submitted an application for the I-710 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project for SB 1 TCEP funding. Metro requested \$27.84 million for this project which has a total cost estimated at \$40.20 million. **CTC staff have recommended this project receive a full award.**

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- In November 2022, Metro submitted an application for the Southeast LA Transit Improvements Project for the SB 1 LPP-C program. Metro requested \$14.50 million for the overall project which has a total cost estimated at \$31.13 million. **CTC staff have recommended this project receive a full award.**
- In June 2022, the City of Huntington Park submitted an application for the Safe Routes for Seniors and Students project for the CTC's Active Transportation Program (ATP). Huntington Park requested \$4.26 million for the project which has a total cost estimated at \$4.76 million. Metro provided grant assistance to Huntington Park to help the city develop a competitive application. **SCAG has recommended this project receive a full award from the CTC.**

Thanks to support from the Board, the PIPO is in position to receive grant awards totaling **\$46.60 million** for three projects in the LB-ELA Corridor.

Additional Metro grant activities for LB-ELA Corridor Projects

Following Board action in September 2022, staff also finalized its priority applications for the SB 1 SCCP after board approval of Metro's first Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) developed for the I-405 corridor. One of the three projects identified by staff from the CMCP that would be competitive for the SCCP was the Shoreline Drive Gateway: Corridor Realignment & Community Connections Program, located in and to be implemented by the City of Long Beach. Metro requested \$60 million for the project which has a total cost estimated at \$69.2 million. This project was not recommended for funding by CTC staff, although it did receive a \$30 million award from the federal RCP grant program that will implement much of the SCCP application's scope.