



State of California Assembly Bill (AB) 180 Programs



Metro

**Item #10
Planning and Programming Committee**

January 18, 2023

Item #10: Assembly Bill (AB) 180 Programs – Board Recommendations

Receive and File report on Metro’s AB 180 Grant Program Candidate Projects for California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) consideration.

Approve programming and expenditure of \$8.5 million of Measure M High Desert Multipurpose Corridor (HDMC) funds identified in the expenditure plan to be repurposed as local match for a TIRCP Cycle 6 grant application and to leverage other state and federal funds for advancing HDMC project needs.

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designee to request from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval for entry into the Project Development Phase of the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) of the Metro L (Gold) Line Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project to meet CalSTA’s TIRCP Cycle 6 eligibility requirement, pursuant to the December 2022 Board motion (File #2022-0830) to submit the project as a candidate for the TIRCP Project Development Reserve funding.

Other AB 180 Grant Programs

In addition to the TIRCP Cycle 6 “Existing TIRCP Projects” funding category, AB 180 also created and provided FY 2023 General Fund funding for three additional discretionary grant funding categories:

- **Major Projects – Project Development Reserve (TIRCP Cycle 6)**
 - Up to \$150 million statewide
- **New TIRCP Projects (TIRCP Cycle 6)**
 - Remainder of funds not programmed for other TIRCP Cycle 6 categories
 - Guidelines target range for Southern California: \$331.5 - \$931.5 million
- **High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects (AB 180)**
 - \$350 million statewide
 - Guidelines target range for Southern California: \$140 - \$280 million

Major Projects – Project Development Reserve

AB 180 created this new funding program to support projects applying to enter the FTA CIG or FRA Corridor ID Programs. Projects must have applied for entry into the respective program before CalSTA evaluates applications (April 2023).

Up to \$150 million statewide – program expected to be oversubscribed.

Projects previously awarded TIRCP funding excluded from consideration.

Board Direction: Apply for **Metro Gold (L) Line Eastside Ext. Phase 2 LPA**

- Staff intends to apply for **\$35 million**.
- Requires Board authorization for CEO to submit request to FTA for approval to enter Project Development phase of the CIG Program (before April 2023).

Additional Board action needed to support High Desert Corridor JPA application for **High Desert Multipurpose Corridor** project (seeking **\$8 million**)

Major Projects – Project Development Reserve

February 2019

The Metro Board approved a motion that prioritized funding for four “pillar” fixed guideway projects: Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase 2, Green Line Extension to Torrance, Sepulveda Transit Corridor, and West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Transit Corridor.

April 2021

The Metro Board approved the next priorities for New Starts grants from the FTA’s CIG Program following the assessment of staff and WSP:

- New Starts - West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor and Sepulveda Transit Corridor Projects
- Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program - San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project

December 2022

Board approved a motion (File #2022-0830, Director Dutra) that directed the CEO to submit the Metro L Line Eastside Extension Phase 2 LPA as a candidate project for CalSTA’s TIRCP Project Development Reserve* which requires request for entry into, or, to currently be in the Project Development Phase



*DECEMBER BOARD MOTION DOES NOT RE-EVALUATE CIG PRIORITIES

L Line Eastside Extension Phase 2 LPA – Pursue Federal Funding

- February 2020 Board approved to discontinue NEPA primarily because the project's primary source of funding was state and local.
- February 2022 Board approved motion directing staff develop funding plans (and assumptions) to focus on a local funding strategy and a combined local/federal funding strategy for the two IOS alternatives that were proposed.
- The request also asked staff to restart NEPA.
- December 2022 To pursue federal funding, the Board approved contract modifications for environmental services to restart NEPA at the December 2022 meeting.
- CEQA completion in Summer/Fall 2023.
 - NEPA completion anticipated in Spring/Summer 2025.

New TIRCP Projects

AB 180 funds a “New TIRCP Projects” Cycle 6 competition for Southern California

- Funding capacity dependent upon awards made for “Existing TIRCP Projects” for Southern California (to be announced January 31, 2023)
- Guidelines target range for Southern California: \$331.5 - \$931.5 million
- Deadline for application: February 10, 2023

“New TIRCP Projects” cycle would be modeled after prior five TIRCP cycles, with expanded applicant and project eligibility.

Success in “Existing TIRCP Projects” competition will be considered by CalSTA.

Given limited funding, timing, and expected lack of competitiveness for program, staff intends to re-submit a competitive TIRCP Cycle 5 project that did not receive an award:

CORE Capacity and System Integration Project: \$47.74 million

High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects

AB 180 provides \$350 million statewide as a one-time set-aside funding opportunity, with a funding target of \$140 - \$280 million for Southern California

Eligible projects include highway-rail grade crossing improvement and separation projects that focus on improving the safety & mobility of people & goods.

CalSTA expects project awards will leverage significant federal funding.

CalSTA encourages applications to submit a programmatic set of inter-related projects with independent utility with clear prioritization of segments.

Staff has identified two major projects that meet CalSTA's evaluation criteria and are at an advanced level of design. These projects, listed in priority order, are as follows:

- 1) Doran Street & Broadway/Brazil Grade Separation Project: \$38.3 million**
- 2) Brighton to Roxford Double Track Project: \$75.0 million**
- 3) Brighton to Roxford – Segment 2 (scalable option): \$25.25 million**

Next Steps: Process

TIRCP Cycle 6 – Existing TIRCP Projects

- CalSTA Announces Existing TIRCP Projects Awards:

January 31, 2023

Additional AB 180 Programs

- ✓ New TIRCP Projects (Cycle 6)
- ✓ Major Projects – Project Development Reserve (Cycle 6)
- ✓ High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement & Separation Projects (AB 180)

- Project Applications Due:
- CEO submits request to FTA:
- CalSTA Anticipated Announcement of Awards:

February 10, 2023

By April 2023

April 24, 2023