Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metrolink FY 26 Annual Work Program

Finance, Budget and Audit Committee

June 18, 2025

Metro

Recommendations

A. APPROVING programming the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's ("Metro") share of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Operating, Rehabilitation, and Capital Budget in the amount of $216,565,092 as described in Attachment A;

B. EXTENDING the lapsing dates for funds previously allocated to SCRRA for State of Good Repair (SGR) and capital project Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) as follows:

- Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) Replacement Project extended from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026
- FY 2016-17 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026
- FY 2017-18 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2026
- FY 2018-19 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027
- FY 2019-20 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2027
- FY 2020-21 SGR Program extended from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2027
- Doran Street Grade Separation Project extended from March 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027
- LINK US Task 2 Project extended from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026;

Metro

Recommendations

C. APPROVING the FY 2025-26 Transfers to Other Operators' payment rate of $1.10 per boarding to Metro and an EZ Pass reimbursement cap to Metro of $5,592,000; and

D. AUTHORIZING the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute all necessary agreements between Metro and SCRRA for the approved funding.

Metro

Metrolink Pre-Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Ridership By Line

Metrolink has recovered 70% of its pre-pandemic ridership, steadily making gains despite the impacts of work-from-home and lower office occupancy rates over the past five years (See Table Below).
In April 2025 Metrolink ridership set a new post-pandemic record with over 715,000 boardings.

LINE	PRE-PANDEMIC MONTHLY RIDERSHIP	APRIL 2025 RIDERSHIP	% RECOVERY BY LINE
91/Perris Valley	76,247	75,835	99%
Antelope Valley	158,409	133,224	84%
IEOC	111,099	65,702	59%
Orange County	244,672	142,796	58%
Riverside	79,983	28,051	35%
San Bernardino	254,709	185,214	73%
Ventura	93,342	69,553	75%
Arrow	N/A	15,051	N/A
TOTALS	**1,018,460**	**715,428**	**70%**

Metro

Recommendation A: Metrolink Operations for FY 26

- Metro subsidy for Metrolink Operations is $141,356,992.
  - Reflects Metro's 51.3% share of Metrolink's operating expenses.
  - The 2.6% increase from FY25 is due to annual fixed operating contract escalators of 3% to 5%, costs to implement new FRA regulations, 2028 Olympic readiness.
  - Member agencies are now funding 78% of Metrolink's operating expenses, compared to 49% pre-COVID due to COVID-related ridership declines.
  - Metro is encouraging Metrolink to develop strategies to address these rising costs.
  - Metrolink is implementing a new fare structure and the new 50% Student Youth Discount Program to increase ridership and revenue.

Metro

Recommendations (Continued)

- Metro subsidy for Metrolink Rehabilitation and Capital projects is proposed at $75,208,100.
  - Metro's share for 38 Rehabilitation projects is $67,808,550.
  - Metro's share for 9 Capital projects is $7,399,550.
  - Metro's share is 49% of the FY 2025-26 Rehabilitation and Capital budget request.

- Requested action extends five State of Good Repair Memorandums of Understanding and three capital project Memorandums of Understanding that lapse in FY 2025.

- Includes approval for the FY26 Transfers to Other Operators reimbursement rate to Metro.

Metro

Equity and Race Platform

- The recommendations provide residents, workers, students, and families with a regional public transportation option to access jobs, resources, and services across the Los Angeles region.
- Metrolink enables residents who may not be able to afford to live in high-cost areas to access quality jobs and services in those areas while living in more affordable neighborhoods. These neighborhoods include Equity Focus Communities, such as Palmdale/Lancaster, the East San Fernando Valley, El Monte, Pomona, and Gateway Cities.
- Metrolink establishes its own equity-based programs separate from Metro.

Metro

Next Steps

- Metrolink will approve their FY 2025-26 budget and member agency contributions at their June 27, 2025, board meeting.
- Metro staff will attend the Metrolink board meeting and infirm Metro Board of any items that may require further board action.
- Metro CEO will execute the FY 2025-26 Metrolink Memorandum of Understanding.