



## Board Report

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File #: 2021-0008, File Type: Policy

Agenda Number: 15.

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### PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MARCH 17, 2021

**SUBJECT: MODERNIZING THE METRO HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

**ACTION: APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT REVISED MEASURE R HIGHWAY PROGRAM CRITERIA AND DRAFT REVISED MEASURE M MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMS (HIGHWAY SUBFUNDS) GUIDELINES**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

CONSIDER adopting the recommendations to modernize the Highway Program and approving the release for public review:

- 1) REVISED Measure R Highway Program Criteria - Project Eligibility for Highway Operational Improvements and Ramp/Interchange Improvements, shown in Attachment A, and
- 2) REVISED Measure M Guidelines, Section X - Multi-Year Programs (Highway Subfunds), shown in Attachment B.

#### **ISSUE**

In June 2020, the Metro Board directed staff to circulate the recommendations to modernize the Highway Program, including broadening its mission, expanding funding eligibility, recommitting to the previously adopted Metro Complete Streets Policy, and updating performance metrics. Staff is targeting Board adoption of the Revised Program Criteria and Guidelines at the June 2021 Board meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Project Eligibility for Highway Operational Improvement and Ramp/Interchange Improvements, of Measure R Highway Program Funding Strategy, was adopted by the Metro Board at its October 14, 2009 meeting. In May 2014, clarification on Project Eligibility was amended by the Metro Board.

The Measure M Multi-Year Program (Highway Subfunds) Guidelines were adopted by the Metro Board at its June 22, 2017 meeting, as part of the Measure M Master Guidelines.

#### **DISCUSSION**

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In fall 2020, Metro staff reached out to the Council of Governments to solicit early input/feedback to the Board-proposed revisions to the Criteria and Guidelines. Additionally, staff presented the Board-proposed revisions to the Metro Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee at their November and December 2020 meetings. At the conclusion of this early and targeted outreach, we received a total of 14 comment letters. Staff summarized those written comments in the attached summary table (Attachment C).

### **DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

The proposed approval will not have any adverse safety impacts on employees and patrons.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

#### Impact to Budget

Approving the recommendations will have no impact on the FY 2020-21 Budget.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

Recommendation supports the following goals of the Metro Vision 2028 Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Provide high-quality mobility options that enable people to spend less time traveling by alleviating the current operational deficiencies and improving mobility along the projects.

Goal 4: Transform LA County through regional collaboration by partnering with the Council of Governments and the local jurisdictions to identify the needed improvements and take the lead in development and implementation of their projects.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The Board could elect not to approve the public release of the Revised Measure R Highway Program Criteria and Revised Measure M Highway Subfunds Guidelines. This is not recommended as the proposed revisions were the result of Board direction.

### **NEXT STEPS**

If approved by the Board, the Draft Revised Measure R Highway Program Criteria and the Draft Revised Measure M Guidelines, Section X - Multi-Year Programs (Highway Subfunds) will be released for public review. Both Guidelines will be posted on the Metro website on April 1, 2021, and there will be a place at the same location for people to submit comments. Following public input and comment, a final revised Program Criteria and Guidelines will be presented to the Board in June 2021 for adoption.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Recommended Revisions to Measure R Highway Program Criteria

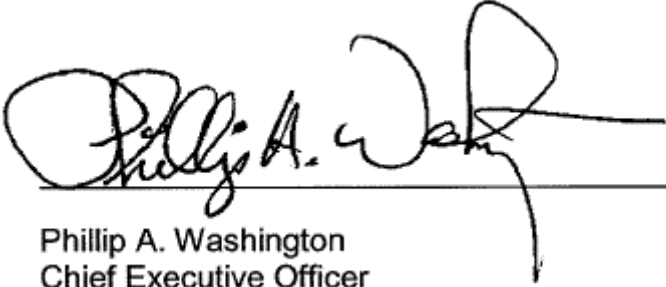
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Attachment B - Recommended Revisions to Measure M Guidelines, Section X - Multi-Year Programs  
(Highway Subfunds)

Attachment C - Summary Table of Comment Letters

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