



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

# R-18

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

333 West Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90802

January 16, 2007

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve submittal of the recommended list of grant applications to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to administer and execute all necessary documents to accept and expend all Metropolitan Transportation Authority grant funds in connection therewith, and to take all other actions necessary to implement the use of such funds. (Citywide)

### DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has initiated the 2007 Transportation Improvement Program Call for Projects. The Call for Projects is the primary mechanism through which discretionary federal, state, and county transportation funds are allocated to local agencies and Caltrans for specific major capital improvement projects. Previously, Metro sponsored this competitive grant process every two years, however, due to State and Federal fiscal constraints, it has not been offered since 2001.

The deadline for submission of applications in the Call for Projects is January 26, 2007. The Call for Projects allocates discretionary funding for the upcoming five to six years to regionally significant projects in several categories, ranging from freeways to pedestrian improvements. Projects are eligible for funding within the following categories: Freeways, Regional Surface Transportation Improvements, Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements, Transportation Demand Management, Bikeway Improvements, Pedestrian Improvements, Transit Capital and Transportation Enhancement Activities.

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Within each category, Metro will rank project applications using several criteria, with major emphasis on regional significance and mobility improvement. Metro has also specified that all applicants must:

1. Fund a minimum of 20 percent of the total project costs for each project, referred to as local match. The local match proposed for all of the City's project applications are non-general fund dollars that are restricted in use by eligibility requirements, e.g., Traffic Mitigation Program funds, Proposition C funds, Redevelopment funds and Transportation Development Act funds.
2. Prepare Project Study Reports (PSR) or Equivalent (PSRE) for all applications. This is documentation of project scope and detailed cost breakdown and is typically a minimum 6- to 12- month process.
3. Establish a priority list if submitting more than one application within a category. A number of City departments have identified potential projects and have ranked the projects within each modal category based on an assessment of each project's competitiveness under Metro's selection criteria, including benefit to the transportation system, regional significance and inter-modal integration. Metro retains the prerogative to vary from the priorities of the submitting agency.

The schedule for the 2007 Call for Projects is as follows:

January 26, 2007	Applications due
May 2007	Metro staff completes preliminary project and funding recommendations
May – June 2007	Public review and appeals of Metro staff rankings
July 2007	Metro Board makes final funding decisions for the Call for Projects

City departments have developed a list of projects for submission for funding consideration. The projects selected had some completed preliminary work that would satisfy Metro's PSR/PSRE requirements. Most of these projects were submitted in Metro's 2003 Call for Projects which was subsequently canceled due to a shortage of state and federal transportation funding. The projects in the Pedestrian Improvements category were among those submitted in 2003, and were developed in response to a priority list of major corridors citywide that was approved by the City Council in 2001. Subsequently, staff worked with various businesses and business associations to

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develop designs to meet the PSRE requirements for these corridors. The projects in the Bicycle Improvements category were developed from the recommended short-term bikeway improvement projects identified within the Bicycle Master Plan. Projects within the Transit Capital category were submitted in the 2003 Call for Projects by Community Development to improve parking and circulation downtown. The Ocean Blvd. project in the Signal Signalization and Bus Speed Improvements category was also submitted in 2003 to improve east-west traffic flow, and the Atlantic Blvd. project was added this year to improve north-south traffic flow in advance of anticipated impacts that will result from future improvements to the I-710 Freeway. In the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) category, the Atherton project was submitted in 2003 and received a federal earmark in the SAFETEA-LU bill, however rising construction costs require additional funding to complete the project. Parks, Recreation & Marine is expanding Orizaba Park at Orizaba and Spaulding, a neighborhood that is deficient in open space. This grant would relocate the Red Car Depot from storage and restore it for use as a community center. The local neighborhood desires to honor the heritage of the park and promote a transportation/train theme at the park to honor the PE ROW. This narrowly defined funding category allows for its use for historical transportation restoration projects. The plan to install landscaped medians on Broadway was developed several years ago as a safety measure to calm traffic in that impacted area. For your information, also attached are projects that other agencies are planning to submit that would benefit Long Beach (Attachment 1).

This letter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Lori A. Conway on January 2, 2007 and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on December 29, 2006.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on January 16, 2007 to submit grant applications to Metro by the submittal deadline of January 26, 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City will be required to provide a minimum 20 percent match for any project awarded funding. Match amounts for each project indicated on the attachment would be included in future capital budgets subject to funds awarded. The local match proposed for all project applications are non-general fund dollars, and are restricted in use by eligibility requirements, e.g., Redevelopment funds and Transportation funds.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Adopt recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTINE F. ANDERSEN  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

CFA:SG:mm  
P:CitFY06-07/MTACall for Projects401-69

Attachment

Attachment 1  
City of Long Beach  
Proposed Project List for the 2007 MTA Call for Projects

Rank by Mode	Resp. Dept.*	Project Description	Dist.	Total Project Cost
<b>PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS</b>				
1	Public Works	Ocean Blvd. Streetscape – pedestrian improvements on Ocean Blvd. from the 710 to Alamitos in partnership with the Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA)	2	\$6 million
2	Public Works	Willow Street Streetscape – median and parkway improvements on Willow Street from the Los Angeles River to Signal Hill which were developed in partnership with the Wrigley Business Assoc. (WBA)	6,7	\$4 million
3	Public Works	Spring Street Streetscape – pedestrian improvements on Spring Street from Junipero to Lakewood Blvd. which were developed in partnership with the Airport Area Business Council (AABC)	5	\$3 million
4	Public Works	Long Beach Blvd. Streetscape - pedestrian improvements from the 405 Freeway south to Willow Street	5	\$5 million
<b>BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS</b>				
1	Public Works	Bicycle System Gap Closures and Improved Access to Los Angeles River, includes Harding Street, Pacific Avenue-San Antonio Drive Bikeway, Alamitos Ave.- Orange Avenue and Del Amo Blvd.; also improving and creating access to the LA River at Long Beach Blvd., Del Amo Blvd., Del Mar Ave., Wardlow Road, Spring Street, Willow Street, Hill Street, PCH and 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Street.	City wide	\$1 million
2	Parks	San Gabriel River Bike Path Gap Closure at Willow Street to provide a connection from Willow Street west to the bike path on Studebaker	4	\$850,000
3	Public Works	Bicycle Safety Education and Awareness Program to teach children, adults, college students, and other groups (e.g. drivers) about bicycle safety and awareness.	City wide	\$250,000

<b>TRANSIT CAPITAL</b>				
1	Comm. Dev.	Park & Ride/Smart Growth Downtown Parking facility at 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Pacific (parking garage construction). Funding would be requested for a portion of the garage construction that could be shared by Metro Blue Line transit riders during commuting hours.	1	\$15.6 million
2	Comm. Dev.	5 <sup>th</sup> Street and Long Beach Blvd. Blue Line intersection and pedestrian safety modifications to allow vehicles to drive across Long Beach Blvd. at 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	1	\$500,000
<b>SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION AND BUS SPEED IMPROVEMENTS</b>				
1	Public Works	Traffic signal and transit operational improvements on Atlantic Avenue between Ocean Boulevard and Wardlow Road	1,2,6,7	\$4.8 million
2	Public Works	Traffic signal and transit operational improvements on Ocean Boulevard between Alamitos Avenue to Livingston Drive and 2nd Street	2, 3	\$3.4 million
<b>TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES (TEA)</b>				
1	Public Works	Atherton Storm Drain enhancements to complete the landscaping for the open culvert which will be covered	4	\$600,000
2	PR&M	Refurbishment and relocation of a Red Car Depot to Orizaba Park (Orizaba & Spaulding) to serve as a community center as part of the park expansion	4	\$500,000
3	Public Works	Broadway Streetscape Improvements to add landscaped medians east of Park Avenue	3	\$1 million

**2007 Call for Projects  
Proposed Project List by Other Agencies**

<b>Mode</b>	<b>Applicant Agency</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Dist.</b>
RSTI*	Port of Long Beach	Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement and Port Rail system	2
Transit Capital	Long Beach Transit	Purchase of six Articulated (60') High Capacity Hybrid Buses to reduce overcrowding	City wide

\* RSTI – Regional Surface Transportation Improvements