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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: THERESE W. MCMILLAN 
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT: RAIL TO RAIL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
APPLICATION TO TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE
COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM**

ISSUE

In April 2017, the Board approved the preliminary design and adopted the CEQA findings for the Rail to Rail Active Transportation Corridor – Segment A (the funded “Base Project”) as well as unfunded enhancements to the Base Project. Staff is now pursuing a California State Transformative Climate Communities Grant Program (the “TCC Grant”) of \$35 million for the development of the unfunded enhancements, including opportunity sites along with other improvements (the “TCC Project”). Metro will be the lead-applicant for the TCC Grant and is working collaboratively on application with co-applicants, namely, the City of Los Angeles and the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (“SLATE-Z”). SLATE-Z is coordinating with several community-based organizations (“CBOs”) for their input and participation in the TCC Grant.

If there are no Metro Board comments by October 13, 2017, staff will proceed with the TCC Grant application.

DISCUSSION

The TCC Grant was established by Assembly Bill (AB 2722) and is being administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). It will fund three implementation grants: one will be a project within the City of Fresno, one will be a project in the City of Los Angeles, and one will be a project in a location to be determined. The TCC Grant will fund the development and implementation of neighborhood-level plans that include multiple, coordinated projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve local economic, environmental and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. At least

one applicant is required to be a public agency with the financial capacity to cash flow the grant.

The application is a two-step process. The first step requires a conceptual proposal which is due October 18, 2017. If the application is selected to advance to the second round, an invitation for a full application will be sent out by October 27, 2017. The second step, the full application, will be due by November 30, 2017 and the decision of award will be announced in January 2018.

The Base Project scope includes a 5.1-mile Class I bikeway and pedestrian path (a completely separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians) running along the Metro-owned Harbor Subdivision. It also includes a connection to the future Crenshaw/LAX Line Fairview Heights along City of Los Angeles streets that consists of a half-mile of Class II and Class III bikeways (respectively, bicycle lanes, and a shared route for bicycles and cars). The Base Project is currently funded with a Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant, a State Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant, and Metro local funds. The Base Project serves as the local match required for the TCC Grant.

The proposed TCC Project includes:

- Upgrading the half-mile of Class II and Class III bikeways with additional enhancement elements (way-finding, lighting, trees, re-pavement)
- Development of supportive infrastructure at four opportunity sites along the alignment in locations where Metro-owned ROW is wider than the Base Project
- Upgrading a portion of the trees along the alignment within the City of LA from 24" box trees to 48" box trees
- Upgrading the proposed pedestrian path pavement within the City of LA from regular asphalt to specialized light-reflective paving that reduces the heat island effect
- Two Bike Hubs that provide secure high-capacity bicycle parking
- Outreach and education programs to be implemented by SLATE-Z and associated CBOs

Both the Base Project and the TCC Project (except for the two Bike Hubs) were included in the preliminary design and were environmentally cleared. Staff is using the preliminary design to prepare the Invitation for Bid (IFB) package for the Base Project. The IFB package will include various options to implement the TCC Project components if the grant is awarded and is expected to be released in October/November 2017. Since Bike Hubs were not included in the preliminary design, separate procurements for design and construction will be initiated if the grant is awarded.

In accordance with TCC Grant requirements, the application is being prepared through a transparent decision-making process inclusive of a collaborative stakeholder group.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will submit the conceptual TCC Grant application, which may include a letter of support from Metro in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, SLATE-Z and several CBOs by October 18, 2017 if there are no Metro Board comments received by October 13, 2017. The City may be a co-applicant for other TCC Grant applications for projects in the City.