



**Metro**

March 18, 2008

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CAROL INGE  
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

SUBJECT: FY 2008-2009 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) PLANNING PROGRAM  
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ISSUE

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), in partnership with three local non-profit organizations, has submitted grant applications to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Planning program Call for Applications; one is being submitted under the Environmental Justice category and three under the Community Based Transportation Planning Grant category. Countywide Planning and Development applied for three of the grants and the New Business and Development Department submitted the fourth application under the Community-Based Transportation Planning category.

DISCUSSION

Under the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Planning FY 2008-2009 Call for Applications process, applicants can apply for grant funding in the following categories:

- Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive Planning
- Community-Based Transportation Planning
- Partnership Planning
- Transit Planning (FTA Section 5304), Statewide Transit Planning Studies and Transit Technical Planning Assistance

The following lists the four grant applications being submitted:

1. A grant for \$200,000 to assess environmental factors and improvements that could increase safety and mitigate the risks of automobile collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists in four lower income Los Angeles communities—Westlake, Sun Valley, Highland Park, and Reseda. This application is in partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

### Community-Based Transportation Planning category

2. A grant for \$311,250 to evaluate the feasibility of developing a bus transitway and related pedestrian enhancements in Downtown Los Angeles along Broadway and Pico Boulevard. The application is in partnership with the USC Center for Economic Development and the South Park Business Improvement District. The project will assess development opportunities along Broadway between 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Pico Boulevard and along Pico Boulevard between Broadway and Figueroa Street and the methods necessary to enhance the relationship between new development and transit.
3. A grant for \$85,064 to create a proposed Folding Bicycle Implementation Plan along the Metro Green, Red, Gold and Orange Lines. The application is in partnership with Weststart/CALSTART. The project will focus on seven stations to identify the needs and requirements that would increase bicycle usage. The plan will promote bicycle usage between a transit station and a transit user's final destination by providing a foldable bicycle that can be easily stored and transported from the station.
4. A grant for \$352,000 to provide an original urban design proposal focused around a previously-studied freeway cap over U.S. 101 between Los Angeles and Main Streets in Downtown Los Angeles. The application was submitted in partnership with EDAW, Inc. and ULI-the Urban Land Institute. The project would provide a conceptual design for the replacement of existing obsolete overcross bridges with new "green" transportation infrastructure and community-sensitive, transit-oriented development.

The goals in the Non-Motorized Transportation elements of the 2001 Long Range Transportation Plan, 2003 Short Range Transportation Plan, and 2006 Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan encourage alternatives to driving alone, thus reducing traffic congestion and supporting pedestrian and bicycle transportation. The grant program would enable us to work with partners in preparing conceptual plans for non-motorized transportation, which is the first step in project implementation. We will contribute an in kind match of 20% through staff time, printing cost and other administrative contribution, which is already included in FY2009.

### NEXT STEPS

Caltrans generally makes a notice of grant award about nine or 10 months after proposal submittal. If any of the submitted proposals is awarded funds, we will execute or complete contracts with the following community-based non-profit organizations: the USC Center for Economic Development and the South Park Business Improvement District, UCLA, and Weststart/CALSTART to complete the work. In addition, if the freeway cap project is awarded funding, we would execute a contract with EDAW, Inc. and ULI-the Urban Land Institute.