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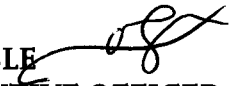
Metropolitan Transportation Authority


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September 10, 2008

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CAROL INGE 
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

SUBJECT: 2009 COUNTYWIDE CALL FOR PROJECTS

ISSUE

We are determining if sufficient funds are available to conduct a 2009 Countywide Call for Projects process. Our preliminary analysis has indicated that while funds are available, they may be limited. This is consistent with the financial assumptions in the Draft 2008 Long Range Transportation Plan that the Board approved for circulation to the public. After consulting with our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and based on their input, we are deferring a decision on the 2009 Call for Projects for a maximum of ninety (90) days until after the November 2008 election and the vote on Measure R. The deferral would allow us to determine whether the results of the sales tax initiative might accelerate resources for a 2009 Countywide Call for Projects.

BACKGROUND

As the first step of the 2009 Call process, we have conducted a preliminary analysis to determine whether sufficient funding is available for this Call. The 2009 Call would fund new projects primarily in FY 2014 and FY 2015, to correspond to the 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) programming period.

Traditionally, seven modes are funded through the Call for Projects – Regional Surface Transportation Improvements (RSTI), Signal Synchronization and Bus Speed Improvements, Transportation Demand Management, Bikeway Improvements, Pedestrian Improvements, Transit Capital, and Transportation Enhancement Activities. The 2009 Call funding is linked to the 2010 STIP cycle and overall, based on current available data, fewer funds will be available due to the uncertainty of the State Budget's impact on the STIP.

Based on our preliminary fund estimates, approximately \$130 million will be available for the two-year period of FY 2014 and FY 2015. Given the State Budget situation, only limited federal and local funds are now anticipated to be available.

TAC

Given the potential impact on the Call process, we convened a meeting of our TAC on August 6, 2008 to seek their advice regarding the viability of holding a 2009 Call. The TAC recommended deferring moving forward with the 2009 Call for Projects for a maximum of 90 days, to await the results of the potential sales tax ballot initiative and to explore any impacts on the availability of Call funding as a result of the election and the vote on Measure R. We concur with this recommendation, as it will allow us to determine if additional funds might be accelerated as a result of the November election, and the short delay will not impact our ability to complete the 2009 Call for Projects process and meet state STIP submittal deadlines.

NEXT STEPS

We will proceed with preliminary activities including updating the application package, assessing funding availability, and developing a schedule for the 2009 Countywide Call for Projects process. We will return to the Board in early 2009 with a recommendation for proceeding with the 2009 Countywide Call for Projects process.