



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

JANUARY 20, 2015

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *AL*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MARTHA WELBORNE, FAIA *MW*
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT: CAP AND TRADE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES (AHSC) PROGRAM – METRO OUTREACH TO
PROJECT PARTNERS**

ISSUE

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program is one of eleven programs through the State of California's larger Cap-and-Trade effort. The AHSC program calls for multi-component applications including affordable housing development, transportation infrastructure and programming. We anticipate that partnering with Metro will provide competitive advantage for local agencies and housing developers. As such, we have established criteria for reviewing and deciding on potential partners. These criteria will assure that Metro participates in projects that have the best chance of competing successfully and that serve to advance Metro's agency goals.

BACKGROUND

The AHSC program is intended to provide funding support for implementation of regional Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS), including the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) plan adopted in 2012. The program is structured to fund affordable housing development in areas served by high quality transit as defined in state statute¹. Projects funded under the program must also include transportation infrastructure enhancements that will improve connectivity and access to the transit system.

¹ High quality transit includes any service with peak period headways of 15 minutes or less.

Metro is well-positioned to participate in this program in partnership with local agencies and affordable housing developers. In particular Metro's distinct efforts in implementing the regional SCS, including the Joint Resolution and Work Program with SCAG, the Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy, and First/Last Mile Strategic Plan are precursors to successful implementation under AHSC.

Because applications must contain multiple components, successful funding applications will be in partnership. Anticipating that local agencies and developers will seek out partnership with Metro, we have established criteria that will allow Metro to proceed with projects with the best likelihood of success, as follows, in prioritized order.

1. Location – Metro will preference partnership projects in a location of strategic importance for transit including hubs and transfer stations, stations previously identified for first/last mile implementation or first/last mile planning, and stations with significant observed access issues (e.g. roadway safety for pedestrians and bicyclists)
2. Disadvantaged communities (DACs) – Because the State process provides a significant priority for projects located in State-identified DACs, Metro should preference projects located in DACs over projects that are not. (refer to map page 17 - <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/GHGInvest/Documents/SB535DesCom.pdf>)
3. Joint Development –Metro will preference projects that are part of the Joint Development program to the extent that Cap-and-Trade funding fills an existing funding gap
4. Inclusion of a priority mobility component – Metro will preference projects that provide funding for mobility elements based on Metro plans and priorities including first/last mile, bike share, complete streets, and active transportation.
5. Share of funding for mobility component – Metro will preference projects for which cap and trade (together with other local dollars) provides the greatest share of funding for transportation improvements.
6. Local priorities – Metro will consider other local considerations as proposed by a city or the County

NEXT STEPS

The AHSC guidelines call for a very aggressive schedule. Guidelines will be adopted by the Strategic Growth Council on January 20. The process calls for applicants to submit an initial concept application from which selected projects will be invited to develop full applications. Concept applications will be due on February 19 and full applications on April 15.

Metro staff will notify all cities in Los Angeles County and the County itself of criteria for considering potential partnerships, as outlined here. We will further conduct outreach by attending sub-regional Council of Governments meetings, and by communicating with the development community. Decisions on participating in individual applications will be made by the Chief Planning Officer, commensurate with normal procedures for pursuing grants.