



PLANNING & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
January 14, 2009

SUBJECT: 2009 CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ACTION: APPROVE 2009 CALL FOR PROJECTS PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION

Initiate the 2009 Call for Projects process.

ISSUE

The Call for Projects is a competitive grant process that co-funds new regionally significant capital projects and is typically held biennially in odd-numbered years. This action authorizes us to initiate and proceed with the 2009 Call for Projects, which would culminate in Board action in July 2009. The 2009 Call would program funds in FY 2010 through FY 2015.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Call for Projects implements our multi-modal programming responsibilities. It provides critical funding for local agencies for needed transportation improvements, beyond their own capabilities, that help implement our Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

OPTIONS

The Board could choose to not hold or defer the 2009 Call for Projects. This is not recommended as the 2001 LRTP and Draft 2008 LRTP update assumed the Call for Projects would continue. Continuing with the Call for Projects provides stability to local agencies to fund transportation improvements and allows local agencies to partner with us in improving the transportation system.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2009 Call for Projects programs funds in FY 2010 through FY 2015. Dollars are forecasted to come from various sources including:

- Local Proposition C;

- Federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and
- Other funds to be determined.

We anticipate bringing preliminary funding marks for the 2009 Call for Projects to the Board in March or April 2009.

BACKGROUND

We are required by federal statute (Title 23 U.S.C. 134 (g) & (h)) and state statute (P.U.C. 130303) to prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Los Angeles County. The TIP allocates revenues across all surface transportation modes based on Los Angeles County's mobility needs and the planning requirements of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21) and SAFETEA-LU.

We accomplish these mandates, in part, by programming transportation revenues through the Call for Projects for regionally significant projects to local jurisdictions and Caltrans. These regional projects are often beyond the fiscal capability of local sponsors and provide additional projects to meet the County's transportation needs. The Call for Projects implements our multi-modal programming responsibilities for Los Angeles County and the Board-adopted 2001 LRTP and the Draft 2008 LRTP updates.

The Draft 2008 LRTP financial model forecast identified \$130 million for the 2009 Call for Projects. Due to the limited federal and local funds that were anticipated to be available, a special Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held in August 2008 to discuss the viability of conducting the 2009 Call for Projects. TAC recommended deferring moving forward with the 2009 Call for Projects for a maximum of 90 days, to await the results of Measure R and to explore any impacts it would have on the availability of Call funding. Meanwhile, we have proceeded with preliminary activities including updating the application package, assessing funding availability, and developing a schedule.

We propose to fund new projects in seven modal categories. These are outlined in Attachment A, along with the types of projects eligible for each category.

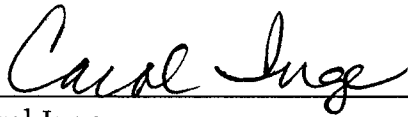
NEXT STEPS

In February 2009, the application package will be brought to the Board for review and approval, with preliminary funding marks scheduled for Board action in spring 2009. Final action on project funding recommendations is proposed for fall 2009. Attachment B contains the anticipated schedule for the 2009 Call for Projects.

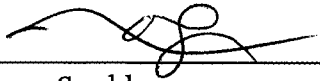
ATTACHMENTS

- A. Modal Categories and Eligibility Criteria
- B. Schedule

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Modal Categories and Eligibility Criteria

Modal Application	Eligible Projects
Regional Surface Transportation Improvements	Major capital improvements and goods movement projects on regionally significant arterial highways which improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, such as: arterial widening, bottleneck intersection improvements, closure of gaps in the arterial system, grade separations, and other arterial improvements. Project must be on the public right-of-way. Rehabilitation, Restoration and Resurfacing (3R) are eligible as a component of a larger capacity-enhancing project.
Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements	Traffic signal synchronization, transit preferential treatment and priority systems, bottleneck intersection improvements, traffic control and monitoring systems, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).
Transportation Demand Management	Technology and/or innovation-based strategies, Ridesharing Incentive/Disincentive Programs, Parking Management Programs, Transportation Facilities Amenities, Commuter Service Centers, and New and Unique Capacity-Enhancing Demonstration Projects.
Bikeway Improvements	Regionally significant projects that provide bicycle access and mobility through bike-to-transit improvements, gap closures in the inter-jurisdictional bikeway network, bicycle parking, and first-time implementation of bike racks on buses.
Pedestrian Improvements	Pedestrian improvements that promote walking as a viable form of utilitarian travel, pedestrian safety, and an integral link within the overall transportation system.
Transit Capital	Bus capital, improvements or construction of transit stations, transit centers, park and ride lots, commuter rail stations, transit stop improvements and transit vehicle purchases.
Transportation Enhancement Activities	Acquisition of scenic or historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning and research, environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff, safety educational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists, reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality and establishment of transportation museums.

Schedule

Date	Task
February 2009	Draft Call for Projects Application Package released to local agencies
February 2009	Applicant Workshop held for project sponsors
February 2009	Call for Projects Application Package presented for Board action
March 2009	Final Application Package Supplement released to local agencies
April 2009	Applications due from project sponsors
April 2009	Preliminary Call for Projects funding marks presented for Board consideration
July 2009	Staff completes preliminary project and funding recommendations
August 2009	TAC conducts review and appeals process
September 2009	Board workshop to review and provide direction on recommendations
October 2009	Board considers Call for Projects recommendations and makes funding decisions
October 2009 – March 2010	Call for Projects programming decisions incorporated into state and federal Transportation Improvement Programs