



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

November 28, 2018

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

PAW

**SUBJECT: FTA ALLOCATION OF \$100 MILLION FOR WPLE SECTION 3
PROJECT**

ISSUE

Earlier today, I received a call from the Acting Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), K. Jane Williams, who shared that the FTA has allocated \$100 million for the Westside Purple Line Extension Section 3 Project. The allocation has been made from Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Investment Grant (CIG) funds, popularly known as the New Starts Program. This allocation is a strong indication that the FTA intends to enter into a long-term funding agreement for this project that would then be funded by Congress through the annual appropriations process.

For your review, I have attached the document released by the FTA today that outlines their allocation of Fiscal Year 2018 for the CIG program.

BACKGROUND

The WPLE Section 3 Project consists of approximately 2.56 miles of twin-bored tunnels and two underground stations located at Westwood/UCLA and Westwood/VA Hospital. This transit line, which is estimated to have over 40,000 boardings daily, will provide a high-capacity, high-speed, dependable alternative for commuters traveling between downtown Los Angeles and the Westside – which is among the most densely populated areas in the United States.

Consistent with Board policy, our agency has been working with the FTA to secure federal funding for this project through the CIG Program, which is the federal government's primary method of funding new rail transit projects. The multi-year funding agreement through which the CIG Program funds transit projects is achieved through a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) – which outlines the terms and flow of dollars (year over year) that will be committed to a

transit project through the annual congressional appropriations process. We are seeking an FFGA in the amount of \$1.3 billion of New Starts funding for the WPLE Section 3 Project.

DISCUSSION

On September 19, 2018, I received correspondence from the FTA approving our request for a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) to incur costs in the amount of \$491.64 million for tunnel construction of the Westside Purple Line Extension (WPLE) Section 3 Project. The approval included a condition that Metro can issue a Notice to Proceed under the construction contract that is the subject of the LONP once FTA completes the environmental review that is currently underway. On behalf of our agency, I conveyed our sincere appreciation to Acting Administrator, K. Jane Williams for the FTA's full support for the WPLE Section 3 Project.

As I shared in a previous Board Box, Acting Administrator Williams called me this past August and informed me that our WPLE Section 3 Project had been cleared by her agency to enter into the New Starts Engineering phase, a key step towards securing a FFGA through the CIG Program. According to the Acting Administrator, this was the first major transit project that she had cleared to enter into the New Starts Engineering phase. This communication from Acting Administrator Williams was a positive development that was a direct result of our productive working relationship with FTA professional staff at their headquarters in Washington, DC, FTA's Region IX offices and the local FTA office here in Los Angeles County.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work diligently with the FTA to enable our agency to enter into a \$1.3 billion Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Westside Purple Line Extension early next year.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – November 28, 2018 – FTA Table 7: FY2018 Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Allocations

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
Table 7

FY 2018 SECTION 5309 FIXED GUIDEWAY CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS (CIG) ALLOCATIONS

Updated November 28, 2018

State	Earmark ID	Project Location and Description	Allocation
AZ	D2018-NWST-019	Tempe, Tempe Streetcar	25,000,000
CA	D2018-CCIP-001	San Carlos, Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project	100,000,000
CA	D2018-NWST-001	Los Angeles, Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project	100,000,000
CA	D2018-NWST-002	Los Angeles, Westside Purple Line Extension Section 1	100,000,000
CA	D2018-NWST-003	Los Angeles, Westside Purple Line Extension Section 2	100,000,000
CA	D2018-NWST-017	Los Angeles, Westside Purple Line Extension Section 3	100,000,000
CA	D2018-NWST-004	San Diego, California, Mid-Coast Light Rail Extension	100,000,000
CA	D2018-NWST-018	San Diego, California, Mid-Coast Light Rail Extension	80,024,740
CA	D2018-NWST-005	San Francisco, Third Street Light Rail-Central Subway Project	23,018,101
CA	D2018-NWST-006	San Jose, Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension	97,414,577
CA	D2018-NWST-013	Santa Ana and Garden Grove Streetcar	98,955,409
CO	D2018-NWST-007	Denver, Eagle Commuter Rail	63,262,585
IL	D2018-CCIP-002	Chicago, Red and Purple Modernization Phase 1	100,000,000
IN	D2018-NWST-015	Indianapolis, IndyGo Red Line Rapid Transit Project	24,989,685
MA	D2018-NWST-008	Boston, Cambridge to Medford - Green Line Extension	150,000,000
MD	D2018-NWST-009	Maryland National Capital Purple Line	120,000,000
MN	D2018-NWST-020	Minneapolis, Metro Orange Line BRT	74,078,782
NC	D2018-NWST-010	Charlotte, LYNX Blue Line Extension-Northeast Corridor	74,234,588
NM	D2018-NWST-016	Albuquerque, Rapid Transit Project	25,035,549
OR	D2018-NWST-011	Portland, Portland - Milwaukie Light Rail Project	100,000,000
TX	D2018-NWST-012	Fort Worth, TEX Rail	100,000,000
TX	D2018-CCIP-003	Dallas DART Red and Blue Lines Platform Extension	2,000,000
WA	D2018-NWST-014	Seattle, Lynnwood Link Extension	100,000,000
		Unallocated	765,495,984
GRAND TOTAL			\$2,623,510,000

Notes.

1. FTA is allocating funding for the above projects to support timely obligation of appropriated funds. FTA will continue to consider additional FY 2018 Capital Investment Grants allocations.

2. To comply with Public Law 115-141, Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants funds allocated in this table must be obligated by December 31, 2019 and all funds must be disbursed by the recipient by September 30, 2026.