

**City of Culver City, California  
Agenda Item Report**

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| Meeting Date: 01/10/2011                                                                                                                                             |  | Item Number: <u>A-1</u>                                                                |  |
| <b>CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the Submission of Applications for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority 2011 Call for Projects.</b> |  |                                                                                        |  |
| Contact Person/Dept.:<br>Helen Kerstein/PW;<br>Diana Chang / Transportation                                                                                          |  | Phone Number:<br>(310) 253-5618;<br>(310) 253-6566                                     |  |
| Fiscal Impact: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                   |  | General Fund: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>      |  |
| Public Hearing: <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                             |  | Action Item: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments: <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Commission Action Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                      |  | Date: _____                                                                            |  |
| Public Notification: (E-mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (01/05/2011)                                                                                        |  |                                                                                        |  |
| Department Approval:<br>Charles D. Herbertson (12/29/10)<br>Art Ida (12/23/10)                                                                                       |  | City Attorney Approval:<br>Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (01/03/11)                       |  |
| Chief Financial Officer Approval:<br>Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (01/05/11)                                                                                            |  | City Manager Approval:<br>John M. Nachbar (01/05/11)                                   |  |

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit applications for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) 2011 Call for Projects for the following five projects: 1) Adaptive Traffic Control System (PWD), 2) Overland Avenue Bicycle Improvements (PWD), 3) Jefferson Boulevard Traffic Signal and Other Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements (PWD), 4) Articulated-Bus Maintenance Facility and Bus Stop Enhancements (TRANS), and 5) Expo Light Rail Feeder Shuttle Service Vehicles (TRANS).

**BACKGROUND:**

Metro is responsible for allocating local, state, and federal discretionary transportation funds through the preparation of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Los Angeles County. A key component of the TIP is Metro's Call for Projects grant program.

Approximately every other year Metro accepts Call for Projects applications in a variety of modal categories. Currently, these categories include: Regional Surface Transportation; Goods Movement Improvements; Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements; Transportation Demand Management; Bikeway Improvements; Pedestrian Improvements; Transit Capital; and Transportation Enhancement Activities.

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Local jurisdictions, transit operators, and other eligible public agencies may submit applications proposing projects for funding. Applications must include a Project Study Report Equivalent (PSRE), which is a conceptual engineering project report that includes detailed cost estimates and a financial plan, a project timeline, a project description and background, discussion of feasible alternatives, discussion for the need of the project, and identification of environmental or other conditions that need to be addressed.

The 2011 Metro Call for Projects applications are due on January 28, 2011. The 2011 Metro Call is smaller than previous Metro Calls. Roughly \$100 million are anticipated to be distributed through this cycle, compared to more than \$330 million in the 2009 Metro Call. Furthermore, the timeline for receiving funding through this Call is lengthy, with funds not anticipated to be distributed until FY 2016/2017.

Despite the reduced size and extended timeline for this Metro Call for Projects cycle, the Metro Call still represents one of the most important funding sources for transportation related projects, and one that the City has been successful in pursuing in the past. In the 2009 cycle, the City's Transportation and Public Works Departments applied for and received awards totaling \$9.5 million for the following four projects: Culver Boulevard Realignment, Bus Signal Priority, Traffic Monitoring and Surveillance System Gap Closure Project, and Real-Time Bus Arrival Information System. Since 1997, other City projects that have been funded through the Metro Call include: Sepulveda Boulevard Pedestrian Enhancement Project (between Braddock Drive and the southerly city limits adjacent to the Culver City Ice Rink), Jefferson Boulevard Traffic Synchronization Project, Citywide Traffic Video Surveillance Project, Fox Hills Traffic Synchronization and Citywide Traffic Control System Project, and Sepulveda Boulevard Widening Project (note: there was no Call for Projects in 2005).

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff is proposing to apply for the following five capital projects:

**Adaptive Traffic Control System**

Presently, there are 102 traffic signals maintained and operated within the City of Culver City. All of the signalized intersections are connected to a KITS distributed Traffic Control System (TCS) installed by Kimley-Horn and Associates in 2009 as a replacement for the City's prior participation in the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control (ATSAC) System with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT).

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The KITS distributed TCS has shown improvements to traffic operations. However, to further improve traffic movement, the City is seeking to install an Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS). ATCS operates signals based on real time traffic volumes by automatically and instantaneously adjusting signal timing parameters. This is in contrast to a distributed TCS, which operates signals based on time of day plans (pre-set parameters) using historic traffic volumes. As a result of serving real time demand, ATCS limits inefficient signal operations. The application for ATCS will be submitted under the Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements category.

**Overland Avenue Bicycle Improvements**

In the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan process, Overland Avenue was identified as a priority project. Overland Avenue provides an important north-south route through the City and connects major activity centers, including Sony Studios, the Senior Center, Vets, the Library, Culver City High and Middle Schools, Farragut Elementary School, Ballona Creek and West LA College. The proposed application will include the installation of bicycle facilities on Overland Avenue. The application will be submitted under the Bikeway Improvements category.

**Jefferson Boulevard Traffic Signal and Other Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements**

Since the opening of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook in 2009, park visitors have flocked to the area near the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard and Hetzler Road. Many of these visitors park their vehicles on Jefferson Boulevard and then walk to the Overlook entrance to use the climbing stairs for exercise or to enjoy the impressive view from the top of the hill. Currently, this stretch of Jefferson Boulevard lacks sidewalks or a nearby traffic signal controlled intersection, so many visitors navigate the busy street without these improvements, which led to safety concerns.

The proposed grant application will likely include the construction of sidewalks and bike lanes along the north and south sides of Jefferson Boulevard and a crosswalk and a full traffic signal at the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard and Hetzler Road. It may also include pedestrian improvements at another nearby intersection or intersections along Jefferson Boulevard. The application will be submitted under the Pedestrian Improvements and/or Bicycle Improvements categories. The City also recently submitted a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant application for a similar project.

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**Articulated-Bus Maintenance Facility and Bus Stop Enhancements**

Through the 2007 Metro Call for Projects, staff has obtained funding to purchase 6 articulated buses to be used to enhance the bus rapid transit service on Sepulveda Boulevard (Rapid 6 Line). In order to implement the articulated bus project, additional maintenance equipment is needed, and maintenance facility and bus stop enhancements need to be done prior to putting the articulated buses in service. The proposed grant application will include the purchase of additional equipment necessary to maintain the articulated buses, construction of enhancements of the maintenance facility, and Rapid 6 Line bus stop enhancements. The application will be submitted under the Transit Capital category.

**Expo Light Rail Feeder Shuttle Service Vehicles**

In anticipation of the higher demand for transit feeder service resulting from the Exposition Light Rail Project operation, staff is looking into providing a shuttle service that will connect the Expo Light Rail Culver City Station with downtown Culver City and the Hayden Tract employment centers. The proposed grant application will include the purchase of vehicles required to provide such feeder service. The application will be submitted under the Transit Capital category.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

**Public Works Department Projects**

The PSRE and grant application for the Adaptive Traffic Control System will be prepared by Advantec, a Traffic Engineering consultant, using West Los Angeles College Mitigation Funds. Alta Planning and Design will prepare the PSREs and grant applications for the Overland and Jefferson projects as part of Term III of the PLACE grant (which also funded the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan).

If the grant applications are approved by Metro, the City will need to provide 20 percent in local matching funds for these projects. If and when that occurs, staff anticipates returning to the City Council either separately or as part of the budget process to request the appropriate budget allocations. The project costs are still being evaluated but are currently anticipated to be roughly \$1.3 million for the Adaptive Traffic Control System and \$1.1 million for the Overland and Jefferson projects, and thus \$480,000 in matching funds will be required if all three proposed Public Works projects are approved. Staff anticipates that these matching funds will come from some combination of West Los Angeles College Mitigation Funds, Playa Vista Funds, New Development Impact Fees, and Gas Taxes. As funding is not anticipated until

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2016, staff anticipates that there will be sufficient time to plan for the allocation of the necessary funds.

**Transportation Department Projects**

The grant application and required PSRE for the Articulated-Bus Maintenance Facility and Bus Stop Enhancement Project and the Expo Light Rail Feeder Service Vehicles Project will be done by staff.

If the grant applications are approved by Metro, the City will need to provide 20 percent in local matching funds for these projects. The project cost for the Articulated-Bus Maintenance Facility and Bus Stop Enhancements Project is being evaluated at this point, and staff anticipates that the matching funds for this project will come from local transportation funds. The project cost for the Expo Light Rail Feeder Shuttle Service Vehicles Project is anticipated to be approximately \$360,000 and thus \$72,000 in matching funds will be required. Staff anticipates that the matching fund for this project will come from City funds. Staff is currently evaluating the feasibility of an assessment district as a funding source for the local match.

**MOTIONS:**

That the City Council

1. Approve the submittal of the applications for the 2011 Metro Call for Projects for the projects outlined in the staff report; and,
2. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and,
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.