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MAY 10, 2022

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: STEPHANIE N. WIGGINS 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: JIM DE LA LOZA  **L.L.**
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT: DRAFT I-405 COMPREHENSIVE MULTIMODAL
CORRIDOR PLAN**

ISSUE

Metro is releasing the Draft I-405 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) for public review and initiating the 31-day public comment period on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

Metro must prepare a qualifying Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) as a prerequisite to compete for and secure a portion of the \$250 million in state funding made available annually through the Senate Bill (SB) 1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP). The I-405 CMCP is being prepared to be timely for SCCP Cycle 3, the next two-year funding cycle valued at \$500 million that is anticipated in late Summer/early Fall of 2022.

BACKGROUND

SCCP funding helps Metro deliver Measure R/M priority projects

In the SCCP's first two cycles, Metro staff secured \$150 million in Cycle 1 for the Airport Metro Connector/96th Street Station and \$150 million in Cycle 2 for the I-105 ExpressLanes. The 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the accompanying Long Range Transportation Plan Financial Forecast assume approximately \$65 million annually in SCCP grant funding over the planning horizon to ensure the delivery of Measures R and M.

Metro's ability to pursue these funds to deliver our program of projects first requires the agency to prepare CMCPs in accordance with the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) SCCP Guidelines.

Requirements for a CMCP

SB 1 stipulated that projects funded by the SCCP be included in a qualifying CMCP. In December 2018, the CTC developed guidelines to direct and specify what is required for CMCPs to qualify as eligible planning documents. CMCP Guidelines are designed to be flexible and context specific. At a minimum, a CMCP must meet the statutory requirements in the Streets and Highways Code (SHC) to:

- 1) Be designed to reduce congestion in highly traveled corridors by providing more transportation choices for residents, commuters, and visitors to the area of the corridor while preserving the character of the local community and creating opportunities for neighborhood enhancement projects. [SHC 2391]
- 2) Reflect a comprehensive approach to addressing congestion and quality-of-life issues within the affected corridor through investment in transportation and related environmental solutions. [SHC 2392]
- 3) Be developed in collaboration with state, regional, and local partners. [SHC 2392]
- 4) Evaluate the following criteria as applicable [SHC 2394]
 - Safety
 - Congestion
 - Accessibility
 - Economic Development and Job Creation and Retention
 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
 - Efficient Land Use
- 5) Be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan [SHC 2393].

DISCUSSION

I-405 CMCP Overview

The I-405 CMCP meets and exceeds these statutory requirements for a qualifying CMCP by presenting a holistic corridor vision with clear improvement strategies that will help advance our progress on the Plan's five goals to improve mobility and accessibility, advance equity, support economic vitality, achieve sustainability and enhance safety.

The CMCP consists of five key elements:

- a corridor assessment that examines the conditions, challenges and needs of the corridor's transportation system and communities
- defined plan goals that integrate and build on goals established by Metro and the state
- a comprehensive list of multimodal projects for the corridor planned by Metro, Caltrans, and other local partners
- a project evaluation that assesses projects against the CMCP goals as well as the criteria for SCCP; and
- improvement strategies that incorporate individual projects and packages of improvements together to guide the plan's implementation upon adoption.

Within the improvement strategies, the I-405 CMCP will identify competitive and strategic projects and packages that could compete in SCCP (and potentially other discretionary grant programs) in upcoming cycles to support the successful implementation of critical corridor improvements. The intent of the CMCP is to provide Metro and our partners with a roadmap to guide the collaboration, delivery and implementation of projects that will not only meet the demands of today and those anticipated in the future, but also solutions that will help Metro on our path to realizing a more equitable, sustainable, efficient and connected I-405 Corridor.

Equity consideration in the Draft I-405 CMCP

The CMCP delivers on Metro's Equity Platform pillar to "Define and Measure." Specifically, the plan examines corridor conditions as it relates to the Equity Focus Communities (EFCs) within the corridor, and more broadly to consider the travel reaching the corridor from EFCs throughout Los Angeles County. Further, the plan explicitly outlines "Advancing Equity" as a core goal to guide the CMCP and support project evaluation. The CMCP evaluates projects based on their potential equity benefits such as expanding access to multimodal mobility options within EFCs and improving infrastructure that specifically serves EFC trips, reducing health impacts of transportation investments within EFCs, and lowering household transportation costs. All projects, strategies, and initiatives included in this plan were evaluated based on their ability to support this goal. Some issues may be beyond the purview of Metro, such as mitigating displacement impacts, but the plan encourages lead agencies and jurisdictions to consider equity impacts to marginalized communities and implement harm reduction strategies in all projects and programs. As the CMCP is a first step for qualifying and prioritizing projects for SCCP grant funding, centering the plan around equity and evaluating projects against equity criteria supports Metro's ability to integrate equity considerations into our grant seeking efforts.

Outreach to-date

Stakeholder engagement has guided the plan's development to-date and will continue to inform the CMCP. Stakeholders from 67 different agencies and organizations were involved through the early stages of development of this plan, including corridor partners, community-based organizations (CBOs), local jurisdictions, transit agencies, Councils of Governments (COGs), private sector stakeholders, and others. Most notably, an advisory committee comprised of key corridor stakeholders was formed to gather feedback on plan development efforts, including goals, evaluation criteria and project evaluation. Additionally, focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews were conducted with local CBOs, transit agencies, academic institutions and regional transportation facilities to gather insights on key mobility challenges and transportation priorities.

In April 2022, a bilingual public survey was conducted to inform the plan and gather information about 1) corridor challenges and transportation priorities; and 2) to increase project awareness in advance of the public comment period. To promote the survey, in-person outreach was conducted at high-traffic transit stops and stations, in addition to geotargeted social media advertisements. Survey results will be summarized in the final I-405 CMCP.

I-405 CMCP public comment period

Staff will release the draft I-405 CMCP for a 31-day public comment period starting Wednesday, May 11, 2022 through Friday, June 10, 2022 to gather community feedback and input to help inform the final I-405 CMCP. Metro will also host two virtual community meetings on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 and Wednesday, June 1, 2022 to review details of the I-405 CMCP and answer questions from the public regarding the plan. The public will receive advanced notification of the meetings through the project's stakeholder database and geotargeted social media advertisements within the study area. Additionally, within the study area's EFCs, targeted meeting notifications will be sent via phone and text to approximately 88,000 landlines and mobile phones to encourage meeting participation and public comments.

NEXT STEPS

Following the public comment period, staff will review comments received and make necessary changes to the draft I-405 CMCP to prepare it for Board consideration and adoption in September 2022. Simultaneously, staff will continue to monitor the on-going developments around SCCP guidelines and criteria. As SCCP guidelines progress towards finalization, staff will utilize the CMCP's improvement strategies and evaluated projects to determine what

projects satisfy SCCP's Cycle 3 eligibility criteria and are well aligned with the CMCP's goals as well as SCCP objectives and metrics.

These grant considerations will also be walked through Metro's Evaluative Criteria Framework (ECF) to determine which of those projects Metro will advance in the upcoming cycle for the various SB 1 programs, including SCCP. In the fall, staff will prepare grant applications for SCCP using the adopted I-405 CMCP to meet the program's CMCP requirement.

Attachment A: Draft I-405 CMCP

ATTACHMENT A

Draft I-405 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP)

Please find the Draft I-405 CMCP linked here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bf4hjivy5k52uvq/AAACCxoo9WUVJ5Y-0hC27Klla/Draft%20I-405%20CMCP%20Documents?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1