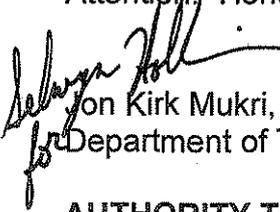


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2014

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395
Attention: Honorable Mike Bonin, Chair, Transportation Committee

From:  Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager
Department of Transportation

Subject: **AUTHORITY TO RETURN GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED TO THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/LOS ANGELES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED TO LADOT, BACK TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY**

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority for LADOT to return two grant-funded projects that were originally awarded to the Community Redevelopment Agency/Los Angeles back to Metro in order for Metro to implement a platform to provide real-time inter-modal navigation for mobile devices.

DISCUSSION

Due to the dissolution of the Community Redevelopment Agency/Los Angeles (CRA/LA), Council File Nos. 12-0014-S10 and 12-0014-S11, authorized LADOT to implement, on behalf of the former CRA/LA, the Gold Line Wi-Fi and Downtown LA Alternatives Green Transit Modes Trial Program Projects. Both these projects were awarded grant funds to the CRA/LA by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) through their 2007 Call for Projects, with no required City local match.

The objectives of these two projects are to enhance the transit passenger experience by expanding passenger options to/from transit stations via shared ride transportation services, and to provide Wi-Fi service on the Gold Line. These two objectives are part of Metro's goal to reduce the number of cars coming into Downtown Los Angeles through improving passengers' experience in commuting to and from Los Angeles.

At Metro's March 20, 2014 Board meeting, the Metro Board of Directors directed Metro's CEO to implement a platform to provide real-time inter-modal navigation for mobile devices, evaluate and implement wireless broadband internet connectivity services across all transportation modes and stations for mobile devices with cellular and Wi-Fi, and to re-allocate existing funding previously awarded to similar programs, such as the agency's Countywide bicycle share initiative. This re-allocation of funding includes the two aforementioned projects.

As a result of these recommendations, Metro identified the Gold Line Wi-Fi and Downtown LA Alternatives Green Transit Modes Trial Program Projects as projects whose funding would be re-allocated to meet the Board's objectives.

The motion also identified a third prior CRA/LA project entitled Experience LA Historic Cultural Neighborhood Connections, which had never been formally accepted by the City due to lack of resources and capacity to implement. The original scope called for a network of interactive kiosks to be implemented across the City and County to improve the transit rider experience. Given that Metro staff had already initiated a similar program in advance of the 75th anniversary of Union Station, the City and Metro agreed that the same outcome could be accomplished if Metro assumed ownership over the grant.

Metro has now contracted for these services in an Interactive Kiosk Pilot. This program will develop digital Help Desks in the City of Los Angeles and across the Metro transit system that deliver travel, transit, community, and local neighborhood information to Los Angeles natives and visiting patrons. These kiosks will promote use of transit and other non-motorized forms of transportation and support local communities by helping users identify local activities and businesses that meet their travel objectives related to Experience LA as a project that could meet these objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Instruct the Department of Transportation to cancel and de-obligate \$970,000 from the 2007 Call for Projects for the Gold Line Wi-Fi Project, reverse grants receivables, and decrease appropriations of \$970,000 within Fund No. 655/94, account no. 94J592
2. Instruct the Department of Transportation to cancel and de-obligate \$821,000 from the 2007 Call for Projects for the Downtown LA Alternatives Green Transit Modes Trial Program Project, reverse grants receivables, and decrease appropriations of \$821,000 within Fund No. 655/94, account no. 94J593

FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no impact to the City's general fund as no City matching funds were required for these projects.

JKM:cr

c: Nat Gale, Office of the Mayor
Maria Souza-Rountree, Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst
Paul Backstrom, Council District 11