

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

May 4, 2021

Metro Blue Line Rail Car #100 – First Street Pedestrian Gallery Project

The Metro Blue Line is Los Angeles County’s oldest and busiest light-rail line, having opened to the public in 1990, connecting Downtown Long Beach to Downtown Los Angeles. The very first rail vehicle to operate on the Blue Line–Car 100–is named after the City of Long Beach and has been preserved by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) at the request of the City of Long Beach (City). The City plans a permanent installation of Car 100 as part of its 1st Street Project (Project), which is a larger effort to improve safety, the pedestrian experience, and connectivity to transit in Downtown Long Beach. Car 100 will be a new attraction and historical signifier of the importance of this light-rail line in LA County’s transit investment and expansion, generating new economic activity in this growing urban center. The estimated total cost of the Project, with the inclusion of the Car 100 installation, is \$5,500,000, of which \$3,600,000 is fully funded through a combination of City and Metro funds.

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There is \$1,500,000 in funding available from Proposition C, \$100,000 from Catalytic Development, and \$300,000 from Renovate derived from various Fourth Supervisorial District improvements, to finance the Project. The Proposition C funds and Renovate funds would be made available once the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for the Project has been completed.

On October 20, 2015 the County Board of Supervisors (Board) created the Economic Development Trust Fund which contained multiple programs aimed at community revitalization, enhanced workforce development opportunities and targeted physical redevelopment. Two of these programs, the *Catalytic Development Fund (CDF)* and the *Renovate Façade Improvement Grant Program*, have also been identified as sources of funding in support of the Project.

Up to \$100,000 in Fourth Supervisorial District CDF will be allocated in support of the Project. In support of the installation of Car 100, the CDF would be used to pay for various pre-development activities to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (and Phase II, if called for).
- Survey.
- Preliminary site plans.
- Massing Studies and architectural designs.
- Soils/Geotech report.
- Retail market demand and leasing study.
- Financial pro forma analysis.
- Historic significance report/findings.

Concurrently, the Renovate Façade Improvement Grant Program (Renovate) is also administered by LACDA. The goal of Renovate is to support economic revitalization in traditionally underserved communities. Recent expansion of the Program services included streetscape enhancements. To support this much needed community improvement, up to \$300,000 in Renovate Program funds would be allocated for streetscape design and enhancements to the adjacent public right-of-way areas for the Project. To support this effort, Renovate funds allocated to the Fourth District in the amount of up to \$300,000 will be used for streetscape enhancements to the pedestrian gallery and include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Parklets to create a safe attractive place for community gathering.
- Area lighting in the public right-of-way.
- Other allowable public improvements to effectuate the project.

An MOU memorializing the direct transfer of Renovate and CDF funds and their eligible uses will be negotiated and executed between LACDA and the City. The use of Renovate funds would also require the City to match LACDA's \$300,000. Given the Project's location in an incorporated city of the County, the use of both CDF and Renovate must be formally considered by the Board as part of the Program Guidelines

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors, Acting as the Board of Commissioners for the Los Angeles County Development Authority:

1. Find that the recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines because the actions involve feasibility or planning studies that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment;

future development of this project will require compliance with all applicable CEQA requirements.

2. Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to use and allocate Catalytic Development Funds, in the amount of \$100,000 for the potential development of the Project, located in the City of Long Beach, to pay for initial feasibility studies as described herein.
3. Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to use and allocate Renovate Funds, in the amount of \$300,000 for the development of the Project, located in the City of Long Beach
4. Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to negotiate and execute a Memorandum(s) of Understanding with the City of Long Beach for the transfer of Fourth District CDF and Renovate to be utilized for the benefit of the Project and within the stated CDF and Renovate Guidelines.

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