

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 27-28, 2024

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8a.(4), Action Item

Prepared By: Dee Lam, Chief
Division of Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR A
LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM RAIL PROJECT, PER STIP GUIDELINES
WAIVER 24-91**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project allocation for the locally-administered State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Link Union Station Rail project (PPNO 9882), in Los Angeles County, for the time period as identified in the attachment?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation recommends that the Commission extend the period of project allocation for the locally-administered STIP Link Union Station Rail project (PPNO 9882), in Los Angeles County, for the time period as identified in the attachment.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will not be able to request an allocation of programmed funds by the June 30, 2024, deadline. The attachment shows the details of the project and the explanation for the delays.

Current STIP Guidelines stipulate that programmed funds are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year programmed. The Commission may approve a waiver to the Timely Use of Funds (TUF) deadlines, one-time only, for up to 20 months.

Attachment

“Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.”

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation
State Transportation Improvement Program**

Project Number: 1
Applicant: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
County: Los Angeles
District: 07
PPNO: 9882
Allocation Amount: \$60,820,000
Phase: Construction
Number of Months Requested: 20 Months
Extended Deadline: 2/28/2026
Department Recommendation: Support

Link Union Station

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) requests a 20-month time extension for the period of project allocation for the Construction (CON) phase of the Link Union Station project. Metro has experienced delays in the design schedule.

The project will make Los Angeles Union Station a run-through track station instead of a stub-end station, which would improve throughput capacity for Intercity, Commuter, and High-Speed Rail systems. Both the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner and Metrolink will realize significant benefits from the first phase of run-through tracks, including additional capacity for up to five Surfliner and Metrolink trains per hour in each direction to provide one-seat ride service through Los Angeles. The project will be delivered by the Construction Management General Contractor (CMGC) contract.

After receiving California Environmental Quality Act clearance in June 2019, the project received additional funding to include the relocation of the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) freight operations, which requires additional evaluation of the environmental impact in the City of Vernon. The additional evaluation has delayed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance. The NEPA clearance work is being performed by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CAHSRA) as the lead NEPA agency. CAHSRA is expected to release the Draft Environmental Impact Study for public comment by Summer 2024, and the Record of Distinction is expected to be completed by Spring 2025. During the environmental impact evaluation period, Metro's design activities are limited in order to protect the evaluation from prejudice. Currently, Metro has completed Preliminary Engineering (35 percent), and is performing Advanced Preliminary Engineering (APE) (up to 65 percent). Metro will request allocation by the TUF deadline for the CMGC Advanced Early Work Packages. The Advanced Early Work Package includes Field Office Site Preparation, Sound Wall Installation, Utility Relocation, Main Street Quiet Zone Preparation, and Early Track Work. Final design is

expected to be completed by Summer of 2026, at which time Metro will finalize negotiations with the CMCG contractor and begin CON.

Therefore, Metro is requesting a 20-month time extension for the period of project allocation for the CON phase from June 30, 2024 to February 28, 2026.