

## MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 15-16, 2025

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8c.(2), Action Item

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Division of Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT COMPLETION FOR A  
LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM TRANSIT PROJECT, PER STIP GUIDELINES  
WAIVER 25-57**

### **ISSUE:**

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project completion for the locally-administered State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Bus Acquisition #1, 40 ZEBs Transit project (PPNO 5430), 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 completion for the locally-administered STIP Bus Acquisition #1, 40 ZEBs Transit project (PPNO 5430), in Los Angeles County, for the time period as identified in the attachment.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In January 2021, the Commission allocated \$30,864,000 for the Construction phase of the locally-administered STIP Bus Acquisition #1, 40 ZEBs Transit project (PPNO 5430). The responsible agency has been unable to complete the project by the construction completion deadline and is requesting a time extension. The attachment describes the details of the project and the explanation for the delays.

Current STIP Guidelines adopted by the Commission stipulate that the agency implementing a project component request a time extension if the project component will not be completed within the specified timeline. The Commission may approve a waiver to the Timely Use of Funds deadline, one-time only, for up to 20 months.

Attachment

**Time Extension Waiver – Project Completion  
State Transportation Improvement Program**

Project Number: 1  
Applicant: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
County: Los Angeles  
District: 7  
PPNO: 5430  
Allocation Amount: \$30,864,000  
Phase: Construction  
Allocation Date: 01/28/2021  
Allocation Resolution: MFP-20-01  
Award Date: 07/26/2021  
Number of Months Requested: 12 Months  
Extended Deadline: 07/31/2026  
Department Recommendation: Support

**Bus Acquisition #1, 40 ZEBs**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) requests a 12-month time extension for the period of project completion for the Construction (CON) phase of the Bus Acquisition #1, 40 ZEBs Transit project. LA Metro has experienced delays in completing the project.

This project, located in Los Angeles County, proposes procurement of 40 Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) as well as necessary supporting charging equipment. The bus acquisitions are required to maintain a state of good repair of LA Metro's fleet through the scheduled replacement of vehicles that allow buses to be retired and replaced after the end of their service life as defined by the Federal Transit Administration.

At the time of allocation LA Metro requested and received an additional 12 months to complete construction, with a deadline of July 31, 2025. However, due to performance, configuration, and quality issues with the pilot buses, acquisition, testing and acceptance is now estimated for completion in July 2026. Specifically, issues that resulted in production delays included lubrication leaks at key components, high voltage cable routing and rubbing, installation quality concerns for flooring, and inability to charge high voltage batteries. To resolve these issues, per LA Metro's request, the bus model was changed to a version with an extended range, which also added some delays to the overall vehicle production.

After the pilot bus performance issues were reviewed, changes were made, and the prescribed configuration modifications were agreed to between LA Metro and the bus manufacturer. In December 2023, LA Metro agreed to the contract modification extending the period of contract performance until February 2026 for the delivery of the buses, including a 60-day period to

validate the changes in configuration of the buses. As of February 2025, 14 buses have been delivered with the first of those buses currently undergoing preparations for the validation process, which includes installation and testing of equipment installed by LA Metro, configuration review, and final simulated service. Following the validation test period, the bus manufacturer will make any necessary modifications to the remaining buses and commence final delivery. The remaining buses are currently in various stages of production at the manufacturer's facility and LA Metro anticipates full contract acceptance for project completion by July 2026.

Therefore, LA Metro is requesting a 12-month time extension for the period of project completion for the CON phase from July 31, 2025 to July 31, 2026.