



**ITEM ID:** 2023-338-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** October 20, 2023

**MEETING DATE:** October 27, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

**SUBJECT:** Status of Olympic Games 2028 Preparation and Coordination - October 2023

### **Issue**

The City of Los Angeles is hosting the Olympic Games in 2028 and the Authority is planning for the transportation needs of the region in concert with the Los Angeles Olympic Games Organizing Committee (LA28) and the Games Management Executives (GME) representing the transportation provider and planning agencies of LA Metro, Metrolink, City of Los Angeles, Caltrans, and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

### **Recommendation**

Receive and file.

### **Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitments of:

- **Customers are Our Business:** We respect and value our customers, putting them at the heart of all we do, and work hard to attract and retain new customers by understanding their needs and finding new and innovative ways to delight them. Metrolink will fulfill critical transportation service when Los Angeles and the Southern California region host the Olympic Summer Games.
- **Connecting and Leveraging Partnerships:** We will forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving. Partnerships with other key transportation

implementation and operating organizations will be key to successfully a wide variety of trips cohesively during the Games period.

## **Background**

To ensure continued coordination and collaboration among major mobility partners in the Greater Los Angeles region, the Los Angeles Olympic Games Organizing Committee (LA28) has organized the Games Mobility Executives (GME) group, including executives from:

- LA28 Organizing Committee
- City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office
- Los Angeles Department of Transportation
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Southern California Association of Governments
- Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink).

Regular updates to the Board are provided to apprise the Board of Games mobility progress per direction from Board Chair Larry McCallon.

## **Discussion**

The GME has been meeting more than once a month at the staff level and separately at the executive level.

Several updates on coordination efforts are noteworthy:

### *Fleet Implementation*

Fulfillment of fleet needs for the Games period remains one of the most critical, yet unresolved needs for Metrolink. Staff has identified the need for up to 13 additional trainsets (locomotives and coaches) to serve Games ridership and beyond. Staff submitted a USDOT grant application on September 28 seeking \$44.7 million in federal funds as match for partial funding of \$51.7 million in state funds awarded last year through the Carl Moyer program. Funding would support the acquisition of eight new Tier 4 replacement locomotives. LA28/GME provide support letters for projects and programs consistent with GME goals and are submitting a unified support letter for the Metrolink application.

Grant award announcements are anticipated in several months. If awarded, staff would consider seeking approval to operate, at least through the 2028 Olympic Games, the Metrolink locomotives required to be retired. The locomotives to be retired would temporarily supplement the base fleet and new locomotives and would likely emit lower emissions than locomotives that could be procured for temporary service.

With funding for new trainsets having proven difficult to secure and given long lead times to procure new locomotives, Metrolink staff are engaged in exploratory but promising discussions with other regional rail operating agencies to secure (whether through transfer, temporary

lease/borrowing or purchase) existing fleet to be declared surplus by those agencies, which include Caltrain in the Bay Area and Metra in Chicago.

### *GME Priority Projects*

At the last update, the group settled on a list of regional GME Priority Projects and initiated planning for operations to meet the needs of travel to and from Olympic venues.

Metrolink-related projects deemed high enough in priority to be included in the list of GME Priority Projects fell into several key categories:

- Projects in the SCORE Phase 1 program that are underfunded and impacted by inflationary cost increases
- Supplemental fleet and facilities required to serve the Games ridership
- Projects along core system segments which serve likely Olympic venues (with the core defined as four segments emanating from Los Angeles Union Station):
  - Los Angeles to Moorpark (along Ventura County Line)
  - Los Angeles to Santa Clarita (along Antelope Valley Line)
  - Los Angeles to San Bernardino (along San Bernardino Line)
  - Los Angeles to Orange County via Anaheim (along Orange County Line).

A summary of projects appears in Attachment A. GME project implementation agencies have been asked to develop a schedule of implementation to help focus on the most time-sensitive funding and policy requests. This schedule will be used by LA28 and GME advocates at the state and federal level to pursue funds through various capital and operating programs.

### *Information Sharing on Lessons Learned from Recent Games*

Staff from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Games Services division briefed GME staff to share lessons learned and success factors in past Olympics Games transportation system support efforts. Among the different ideas shared was the need to:

- plan for the needs of different groups of spectators (domestic residential, domestic guest, and international guest)
- advance planning for workforce transportation
- design signage to accommodate new users with events in mind.

### *Sports Program*

The announcement of the final sports program (anticipated for September 2023) has yet to occur. Discussions between the IOC and LA28 organizers are ongoing. Nine sports are candidates for inclusion in the Olympic sports program. Addition of any of these nine sports will most likely result in addition of venues needing to be served by the regional transportation system.

### *Freight Coordination*

Initial meetings have been scheduled to discuss freight and goods movement coordination due to the long lead times necessary to secure agreements with the freight trucking companies and Class I railroads. Authority staff has advanced the need to coordinate the movement of freight trains to off-peak times in order to preserve capacity for passenger trains.

### *Mobility Hubs*

Mobility hubs are a major element of Games transportation for spectators and workers who can drive or take transit to a major transit station where they would board rail or bus services to Olympic venues. Authority staff, as a member of a special subcommittee focused on mobility hubs, has urged an approach to the development of mobility hubs that pays attention to connectivity to regional rail and that considers the needs of travelers from counties outside of Los Angeles County.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will continue to be engaged with the GME on all points of coordination to implement required capital investments in infrastructure and to procure fleet. Upon receiving the final sports program and designation of venues, staff will work to develop a plan for access for spectators and workforce. Recommendations on required project elements and their procurements will be brought to the board from time to time. Avenue to procure an expanded fleet for the Games period will continue to be explored. Games-period rail corridor capacity will be negotiated with partner freight railroads. Funding advocacy for fiscal years 2025 through 2028 is being coordinated with the GME agencies. The collective support for the Reconnecting Communities Grant provides a model for cooperative grant pursuits moving forward.

Prepared by: Roderick Diaz, Director, Planning and Development  
Rory Vaughn, Planning Manager II

Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

### **Attachment(s)**

[Attachment A - LA28 Surface Transportation Priority List Presentation - LA28 Status Update](#)