



ITEM ID: 2023-172-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: April 21, 2023

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: Status of Olympic Games 2028 Preparation and Coordination

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 agencies of LA Metro, Metrolink, City of Los Angeles and Caltrans.

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 Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink).

The Chair of the Authority's Board of Directors Larry McCallon has included progress in this partnership of the region's transportation agency's as one of his top priorities. Regular updates to the Board are provided to apprise the Board of this progress.

Discussion

The GME has been meeting on a monthly basis at the staff level and separately at the executive level. Most recently, the group has 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.

GME Priority Projects

The major activity that the GME has undertaken has been the development of a priority list of projects across the region. The list includes the highest priority projects of GME partners that can be completed in time to be operational that (1) provide permanent/legacy benefits after the Games, (2) provide significant value to support LA28's core transport goals; and (3) serve the needs of and enhance the quality of life for disadvantaged communities. Projects that Metrolink offered that were deemed by the GME as high enough 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 incremental fleet
- Projects along core system segments which serve likely Olympic venues (with the core defined as the sum of 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.

Operations Planning and Venue-Specific Transportation Considerations

Authority staff are also working with LA28 to determine the potential level of ridership that can be anticipated for each day of the Games given the program of games events. LA28 is still finalizing the events program, so work is currently focused on developing estimates of prospective maximum loads, given the sporting event program as well as allowances for background passenger loads and other special events (e.g., arts and cultural events, concerts) that may be occurring in the region. This task will evolve and be repeated as detailed information is developed.

The LA28 GME is also a forum for information sharing. Recent meetings have involved sharing of information from former athletes who shared their impression about transportation and accessibility in past Games periods. They emphasized the ability to get to Games venues from great distances, the need to make connections more intuitive and the need to include transit trip planning capabilities into official Olympics spectator apps. Other topics presented at GME meetings included different models of governance and funding pursuits.

Fleet Readiness

Separately, Authority staff are confirming the need for incremental trains for the Games period and beyond through a parallel effort known as the Service Growth Development Plan. This SGDP explores potential growth in service as the SCORE Phase 1 capital improvements are completed. To the extent that the SGDP level of service lines up with Games period needs, procurements of new trains are needed. To the extent that SGDP service levels lag Games period needs, then temporary, borrowed, or retired trains may be more cost effective. Staff is exploring both paths, as well as maintenance facility and storage requirements for each path so that it can bring a recommendation to the Board on vehicle equipment procurements when all the issues have been fully vetted.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to be engaged with the GME on issues of coordination of capital investment and transit operations. Recommendations on required procurements will be brought to the board from time to time in order to facilitate the optimal Games-period regional rail service offering. Funding advocacy is being coordinated with the GME agencies and a meeting with U.S. Department of Transportation leadership has been scheduled for late March.

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Attachment(s)

[Attachment A - LA28 Surface Transportation Priority List
Presentation - Status of Olympic Games 2028 Preparation and Coordination](#)