

improvements, and related corridor infrastructure.

Staff propose requesting approximately \$20.25 million in CRISI funding, with a required 20% non-federal local match of approximately \$5.06 million. Staff propose satisfying the local match requirement through a combination of previously designated STIP shares, existing Measure D Rail funds previously programmed for the ZEPRT project, and additional ~~\$1,430,000~~ \$1,440,000 in future Measure D Rail Corridor funds.

In order to demonstrate the full required non-federal local match, as requested by Caltrans as they consider the request for a letter of support, **Staff recommends the RTC program an additional \$1,440,000 in Measure D-Rail Corridor funds in FY 2027/28 through FY 2031/32 to serve as the local match for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail (ZEPRT) Project Environmental Component, for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program funding application.**

NEXT STEPS

CRISI awards are anticipated to be announced in late 2026 or early 2027. If awarded, staff anticipate initiating consultant procurement activities in 2027 and beginning the ZEPRT PA&ED phase in approximately August 2027. Key anticipated milestones include:

- Summer 2026 – CRISI application submitted
- Late 2026 / Early 2027 – Anticipated award announcement
- 2027 – Grant authorization and consultant procurement
- August 2027 – Begin PA&ED phase
- 2028–2030 – Environmental review, technical studies, public engagement, and preliminary engineering
- February 2031 – Anticipated Commission consideration of final environmental document

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost to complete the ZEPRT Environmental component is approximately \$25,300,000. Staff proposes requesting \$20,250,000 in federal CRISI funding, with a required 20 percent non-federal local match of \$5,060,000. The proposed local match would be funded through a combination of existing and future programmed sources that demonstrate sufficient capacity to meet the match requirement, including:

- Expected \$820,000 in carryover FY 2025/26 Measure D Rail Corridor funds, based on the Measure D FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget which includes carryover from the ZEPRT Project Concept Development work;