



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: March 7, 2007

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Operations

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035: Regional Project/Program Submittals

MTC Regional Project/Program Submittals

MTC issued an open and competitive “call for projects” for the Transportation 2035 Plan to all our partner agencies and the public in December 2007. Projects/programs will undergo a project-level performance evaluation and policy review as part of the process of deciding which projects/programs will be included in the financially constrained plan. Submittals were due to MTC on March 5, 2008.

You may recall that the Planning Committee provisionally approved “prior commitments criteria” at its December 2007 meeting for committed funding and committed projects. This included funding committed to date to the regional transit expansion program under Resolution 3434. Also, ongoing regional operations programs – TransLink®, 511, FSP/Call Box, Freeway Operations, Arterial Signal Timing, Performance Monitoring, Transit Connectivity (10-year commitment) – were designated as committed projects as part of this policy, meaning that these regional operations projects would be funded at their current scope without enhancements. The remaining regional programs – Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Program, TLC, Clean Air, Lifeline – or new regional programs proposed by MTC or other stakeholders are not deemed committed and are subject to project evaluation and tradeoff discussions for determining the RTP financially constrained element.

With that in mind, MTC staff is proposing to submit several uncommitted regional projects/programs for consideration in the Transportation 2035 Plan. These MTC-sponsored projects/programs will be evaluated as part of the project-level performance evaluation and take part in the investment trade-off discussions together with all other projects/programs that are submitted by the Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs), Caltrans, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and other partners and stakeholders. Thus, unlike past practice, staff is not proposing to reserve discretionary funds “off the top” to fund these regional programs.

Based on feedback from the Commission, Joint Policy Committee (JPC), our advisory committees and public outreach meetings, staff proposes the following existing and new projects/programs and funding amounts for project-level performance evaluation in the Transportation 2035 Plan. All project costs are shown in 2007 dollars; these costs will be escalated to year-of-expenditure dollars during the evaluation process. See **Attachment A** for more details.

Existing Projects/Programs – Enhancements

1. Regional Bicycle Program (\$1.3 billion)
2. Lifeline Transportation Program (\$1.6 billion)
3. Transportation for Livable Communities (\$1.5 billion)

Proposed New Projects/Programs

4. Freeway Performance Initiative (\$1.3 billion)
5. Transportation Climate Action Campaign (\$184 million for five years)
6. Regional Rail Right-Of-Way Preservation (\$435 million)

Proposed New Project Recommended by MTC Advisors

7. Means-Based Transit Fare Assistance (\$1.2 billion)

These regional projects/programs respond to one or more of the principles of improving access and mobility for seniors, the disabled, low-income, and all others; supporting focused growth; improving transportation system management; and, combating climate change. They will be evaluated alongside other candidate projects submitted by regional stakeholders for discretionary Transportation 2035 funding.

Note that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, on behalf of the four regional agencies represented on the JPC, is submitting the Climate Action Campaign for consideration in the Transportation 2035 Plan. MTC, on behalf of the region’s rail operators, is also submitting the Regional Rail Right-of-Way Project based on the recommendations from the Regional Rail Plan. Furthermore, we have incorporated some of the suggestions from the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition (see Attachment B) into the proposed Regional Bike and Climate Change Programs.

Staff will present an overview of these regional projects/programs to this Committee at your March 14 meeting.

Ann Flemer

AF: RK

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