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**Programming and Allocations Committee
March 5, 2008
Minutes**

Chairperson Tissier called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Other Commissioners present were Vice Chair Federal Glover, Commissioners Ammiano, Blanchard, Chu, Cortese, Dodd, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, Rubin and Worth.

Consent Calendar

The Committee approved the following consent items:

- *Minutes of February 13, 2008 meeting as submitted.*
- *Authorize the release for public review and comment on March 28, 2008, and set a public hearing date of April 9, 2008 for the draft 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), financial constraint analysis, and Air Quality Conformity analysis.*
- *2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 2007-23. MTC Resolution No. 3755, Revised.*
- *Proposed revisions to the FY 2008 and FY 2009 FTA Nonurbanized Area Formula Funds (Section 5311) Program of Projects. MTC Resolution Nos. 3733, Revised, and 3838, Revised.*
- *Revisions to FY 2007-08 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307 and 5309 Fixed Guideway Programs to reflect final federal appropriations and complementary revisions and allocations to the AB664 bridge toll program. MTC Resolution Nos. 3714, Revised, 3742, Revised and 3856.*

Federal Programming

- *FY 2008-09 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307 and 5309 Fixed Guideway Programs and matching AB664 Bridge Toll Program. MTC Resolution Nos. 3854 and 3855.*

The Committee approved the staff recommendation to refer MTC Resolution No. 3847 to the Commission with an amendment to defer the \$30 million BART request to April PAC.

Glen Tepke, Programming and Allocations, gave an overview of the region's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area Formula (Section 5307) and Fixed Guideway Modernization (Section 5309 FG) funds. MTC, the designated recipient, will program funds, totaling approximately \$338 million, to eligible transit operators to support transit capital replacement and rehabilitation projects, and operating costs.

Glen addressed the programming constraints and policy considerations, follow up needed before amending projects into the TIP as well as project caps.

Chair Tissier asked MTC for examples on the 'lower scoring projects'. Glen noted that projects other than vehicle replacement and track and guideway projects are generally considered lower scoring based on current MTC policy.

Commissioner Scott Haggerty asked for clarification on the \$30 million request from BART.

Alix Bockelman explained that MTC is proposing to program the \$30 million to set aside the capacity within the FTA program, however, there is a second step, which is amending funding into the region's Transportation Improvement Program, which allows sponsors to access the funds through the federal government. MTC is proposing to defer that step until the new TIP is completed in September. This will give MTC staff time to better understand BART's funding plan for the BART car replacement.

Commissioner Haggerty moved that the committee approve these resolutions with an amendment that the BART issue is brought before the committee again in April for more discussion. Motion was second with no objection.

- *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 07-24. MTC Resolution No. 3755, Revised.*

Glen Tepke, Programming and Allocations gave an overview of Amendment 07-24 of the TIP. The amendment constrains the FY 2007-08 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and Section 5309 programs to actual appropriations, adds FTA funded earmarks, and makes adjustments to other previously programmed FTA-funded projects. The amendment also adds the FY 2008-09 FTA Section 5307 and Section 5309 programs to the TIP, which total approximately \$350 million. The amendment also updates the grouped listing for the FTA Section 5311 program.

Chair Tisser suggested that MTC have the TIP summaries available with the packets rather than as a handout the day of the meeting.

Regional Programming

- *Regional Measure 2 (RM2) Operating Program Update*

Christina Verdin, Programming and Allocations, gave an annual update on the FY 2006-07 operating program. In FY 2007-08, \$25.9 million of RM2 operating assistance was allocated to eight projects. These operating projects are subject to MTC adopted performance standards; however, these measures do not have to be met until the 3rd year of service. The operating projects are monitored on an annual basis and the FY 2006-07 analysis was presented.

Issues presented included RM2 projects that are not projected to meet required performance standards by the end of FY 2007-08. Next steps and associated timeline were outlined.

Commissioner Haggerty asked Alix Bockelman, Programming and Allocations, to elaborate on any discussions that she might have had with Alameda County staff on how to increase the smaller suburban operators' ridership.

Alix responded that although she did not have specific discussions regarding the LAVTA Owl Service, she has had some discussions with County Connection. County Connection is evaluating options for how they might restructure their service. MTC is convening an Owl task force to talk about these issues with the affected operators. Also, MTC is waiting to see how much LAVTA performance improves by the end of the fiscal year. Staff does want to keep the pressure on the transit operators, and adhere to the performance standards that were set out which staff believe should be achievable.

Haggerty inquired if the committee should look at some of these suburban carriers as more of a connectivity issue. Is the 10% performance standard too high? Can we give special consideration to these more suburban routes?

Steve Heminger, MTC, replied that 10% is a low performance threshold. He asked the committee to keep in mind that Owl service will not be as productive a service as peak service. At the levels that some of these routes are achieving, however, LAVTA and County Connection might consider supplying cab fare instead of running a bus. There is a need to discuss a different way to provide the mobility that people need.

Haggerty suggested looking at other options instead of cutting off operators who are not meeting the performance standards.

Commissioner Dodd suggested what is done in Napa County, which is lowering operating costs by running smaller buses during the off-peak times.

Commissioner Worth expressed her appreciation to MTC in working with County Connection at looking at ways of making the Owl service work. Although connectivity is one of the key issues, funding is always the challenge.

- *Proposed allocation of \$42 million in RM2 Capital funds. MTC Resolution Nos. 3651, Revised, 3649, Revised and 3712, Revised.*

Shruti Hari, Programming & Allocations, provided the proposed allocation of \$42 million in RM2 Capital funds. MTC Resolution Nos. 3651, Revised, 3649, Revised and 3712, Revised. \$33.2 million to Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) which includes \$21.8 million for Transit Center Preliminary Engineering & Design and \$11.4 million for Early Works Final Design, Permits, Interagency Agreements and Construction Management. \$1 million to the Transportation Authority of Marin for the Cal Park Hill tunnel phase A construction. \$7.8 million to Sonoma-Marin Area Rapid Transit District for the Cal Park Hill tunnel phase A construction.

Chair Tissier asked for clarification regarding the \$21.8 million for Transit Center Preliminary Engineering & Design. Alix clarified that TJPA is still completing their negotiations, happening at the end of this week. MTC is asking if this does not get completed, and TJPA doesn't go to their Board in the 2nd week of March, MTC would bring

to the Commission everything but the \$21.8 million. However, if they do complete the negotiations and get board approval, allowing them to partially certify the contract and issue a notice to proceed, staff is recommending that the full RM2 allocations presented to the Committee be forwarded to the Commission later this month.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Chair Tissier adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.