

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

April 9, 2008

Item Number 3c

Resolution No. 3813, Revised

Subject: Revision to the FY 2007-08 State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary Program.

Background: This action revises the STA Program to include the following changes:

- Deprograms \$2.5 million from TransLink® and \$10.0 million from Transit Connectivity. Both projects will be funded with Proposition 1B Transit funds in order to provide STA operating funds to Lifeline Transit. For TransLink®, the fund recipient will apply for Proposition 1B Transit funds directly through Caltrans. For Transit Connectivity, MTC already applied for and recently received Proposition 1B Transit funds. Since \$10.0 million in STA funds was previously allocated for Transit Connectivity, a rescission of this allocation is being concurrently undertaken through Delegated Authority. A transfer of \$12.5 million in STA Regional Discretionary Program funds to Lifeline has already occurred and is documented in the FY 2008-09 Fund Estimate (Res. 3845).
- Adds \$200,000 to the 511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup System project for a total of \$1,200,000.

This action also updates the STA Program to reflect:

- Allocation of \$1.6 million in TransLink® Incentive funds to MTC instead of to transit operators as originally programmed.
- Allocation of \$50,000 to BART to complete a signage prototype and standard related to Transit Connectivity improvements.

Issues: None

Recommendation: Refer MTC Resolution No. 3813, Revised to Commission for approval.

Attachments: MTC Resolution No. 3813, Revised

Date: June 27, 2007
W.I.: 1152
Referred by: PAC
Revised: 09/26/07-C
04/23/08-C

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 3813, Revised

This resolution establishes a one-year program for Fiscal Year 2007-08 for MTC State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary funds.

This resolution was revised on September 26, 2007 to program matching funds to support implementation of Regional Technology projects in connection with the Bay Area's Urban Partnership Program, reprogram Lifeline Transit funds that lapsed in FY 2006-07 and direct previously programmed TransLink® funds to AC Transit in exchange for different funds.

This resolution was revised on April 23, 2008 to program funds to MTC for the 511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup and to BART for Transit Connectivity work, revise the claimant of TransLink® incentive funds, and deprogram funds for Transit Connectivity and TransLink® enhancements.

Further discussion of this program is contained in the Programming & Allocations Committee Summary Sheet dated June 13, 2007, September 12, 2007, and April 9, 2008.

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Attachment A
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STA Regional Discretionary Program FY 2007-08

Funding Availability	Amount
FY 2007-08 STA Fund Estimate <i>(note 1)</i>	\$26,852,338

Project Name	Claimant	Amount
TransLink®	MTC	\$5,158,000
TransLink® Grant Administration	GG Transit	\$13,000
TransLink® Incentive Fund <i>(note 3)</i>	MTC	\$1,608,000
AC Transit Operations (TransLink® card distribution fund exchange) <i>(note 2)</i>	AC Transit	\$180,000
511 Transit (Regional Transit Information System)	MTC	\$364,000
511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup System <i>(note 5)</i>	MTC	\$1,200,000
Regional Coordination Support	MTC	\$1,621,000
Transit Connectivity <i>(note 4)</i>	MTC	\$230,000
Transit Connectivity <i>(note 5)</i>	BART	\$50,000
Regional Transit Information Kiosk	MTC	\$100,000
Regional Transit Marketing	MTC	\$46,000
Regional Public Opinion Poll	MTC	\$100,000
Project Management Tools/IFAS Customization	MTC	\$200,000
Project Monitoring and Audits	MTC	\$150,000
Regional Operations Support Contingency	MTC	\$430,000
Regional Paratransit Program	CCCTA	\$75,000
Regional Eligibility Database	CCCTA	\$40,000
Regional Express Bus Program	LAVTA	\$21,000
Regional Express Bus Program	SamTrans	\$496,000
Transit Emergency Satellite Telephones	MTC	\$16,000
Transit Efficiency	MTC	\$50,000

**STA Regional Discretionary Program
 FY 2007-08**

Project Name	Claimant	Amount
Transit Facilitation/Studies Contingency	MTC	\$160,000
Legislative Consultant	MTC	\$205,000
Lifeline Transportation Program	TBD/Various Operators	\$1,000,000
Community-Based Transportation Plans	MTC	\$1,200,000
Lifeline Transportation Program ^(note 2)	MTC	\$150,000
Urban Partnership Projects ^(note 2)	MTC	\$850,000
Total		\$15,713,000

STA Balance Estimate	\$11,139,338
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Notes:

1. The Fund Estimate was updated to \$53,930,338 to reflect the September 2007 Fund Estimate revision, which incorporates the enacted FY 2007-08 State Budget. It then subtracts Resolution 3814 transfers for Lifeline Program exchange (\$12,278,000) and MTC transfer of a portion of its STA Regional Discretionary Program funds to transit operators (\$14,800,000).
2. Program was revised on September 26, 2007 to program \$850,000 in matching funds to support implementation of Regional Technology projects in connection with the Bay Area's Urban Partnership Program, reprogram \$150,000 in Lifeline Transit funds that lapsed in FY 2006-07 and direct \$180,000 of previously programmed TransLink® funds to AC Transit.
3. Program was revised on April 23, 2008 to change the programming of \$1,608,000 in TransLink® Incentive funds from transit operators to MTC.
4. Program was revised on April 23, 2008 to deprogram \$2,520,000 from TransLink® and \$9,958,000 from Transit Connectivity. Both projects will be funded with Proposition 1B PTMISEA funds in order to provide STA operating funds to Lifeline Transit (see Note 1).
5. Program was revised on April 23, 2008 to add \$200,000 to the 511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup System and \$50,000 for BART as part of the Transit Connectivity project.

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STA Regional Discretionary Program Summary FY 2007-08

STA Regional Discretionary Funds have historically supported some of MTC's regional operations projects as well as other planning and operational efforts to improve coordination of, and access to, transit services in the Bay Area. Many of these projects have been identified in the Commission's SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan. Specific SB 1474 plan goals include: 1) Improve service to the transit customer, 2) Increase system efficiency through coordination of specific functions and 3) Develop sub-regional coordination agreements between connecting agencies.

The FY 2007-08 STA Regional Discretionary Program totals \$15,713,000 and generally focuses on delivering TransLink[®], 511 Transit (Regional Transit Information System), and Lifeline services consistent with the Commission's Transportation 2030 Plan. In addition, funds are programmed to implement connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs. More detail about specific projects follows.

TransLink[®]

Programmed to MTC: \$6,766,000

Programmed to GGT: \$13,000

Programmed to AC Transit: \$180,000

TransLink[®] is the Bay Area's new regional transit fare payment system. When fully implemented, transit riders will be able to pay transit fares on any transit system in the region with a reloadable TransLink[®] smart card. The TransLink[®] card stores transit value – electronic cash (e-cash) and/or transit passes, and transit riders “tag” the card by touching it to a TransLink[®] card reader when boarding a transit vehicle or entering a station. The reader deducts the correct fare including any transfers or other discounts. TransLink[®] is currently operating on AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit and Ferry (GGT); the system will expand next to BART, Caltrain and Muni. The system is expected to be available on every transit system in the region in the following years. In 2004, MTC and the region's transit agencies formed the TransLink[®] Consortium to oversee the implementation and operation of TransLink[®].

MTC's TransLink[®] responsibilities include oversight of a contract with Motorola, Inc. to design, build, operate and maintain the TransLink[®] system and of a number of other contracts related to

the implementation and operation of the TransLink[®] system. MTC has provided funds for the implementation of the program, and MTC will pay a portion of the ongoing fixed and variable operating costs. The transit agencies are responsible for operating and maintaining TransLink[®] on their respective systems, and the transit agencies pay a portion of the ongoing variable operating costs.

\$4,797,000 in STA funds will cover MTC's share of fixed and variable operating costs associated with the TransLink[®] project. Operating costs are incurred through MTC's contracts with Motorola, Inc. for operation of the TransLink[®] system and AT&T, which provides communications services related to TransLink[®] operations. During the coming fiscal year, MTC expects a substantial increase in the number of transit riders using TransLink[®] to ride AC Transit and GGT. MTC also expects transit riders to begin using TransLink[®] to ride BART, Caltrain and Muni in the latter part of the fiscal year. Consistent with the TransLink[®] Inter-Agency Participation Agreement, STA funds will also support the TransLink[®] Incentive Fund, which MTC will use to offset transit operators' shares of the TransLink[®] operating expenses in the first years of TransLink[®] operations. \$1,608,000 in STA funds are programmed to MTC as part of the incentive fund to cover operating costs for the following agencies up to the amounts shown: AC Transit (\$199,000), BART (\$531,000), Caltrain (\$44,000), GGT (162,000), and SF MTA (\$672,000).

In addition, \$180,000 in STA funds for AC Transit will help fund expansion of the TransLink[®] card and value distribution network. This network, which is made up of Bay Area retailers, is one way transit riders are able to purchase TransLink[®] cards and add TransLink[®] value. In order to expand the network, MTC will exchange funds with AC Transit to facilitate participation of a major retailer. AC Transit will exchange the STA funds with \$180,000 of another funding source, and deposit the exchanged funds into the TransLink[®] financial settlement account. The account will enable daily financial settlement of all transactions performed at TransLink[®] point of sale distribution locations.

Finally, \$361,000 in STA funds will serve as local match to federal funds for TransLink[®] capital costs, and \$13,000 in STA funds will cover GGT's administration of federal funds used to support the implementation of the TransLink[®] system.

511 Transit (formerly called Regional Transit Information System)

Programmed to MTC: \$364,000

In FY 2007-08, STA funds will serve as local match to federal STP and CMAQ funds for the 511 Transit program. 511 Transit collects, maintains, updates and distributes region-wide transit service information for the benefit of the traveling public and MTC's transit partners. The three major components are:

- 511 Transit Website - The 511 Transit website contains schedule, route, fare and map information for all transit agencies in the Bay Area as well as the current trip planner. Access to the 511 Transit website is provided through MTC's traveler information portal (www.511.org) where traffic, ridesharing and bicycle information is also available.

- Regional transit trip planner - The public can plan transit itineraries any time of the day or night using the internet-based 511 TakeTransit Trip PlannerSM. Transit agency call center staff also has access to the trip planner for assisting customers with trip planning. Over the next year, MTC will implement a new trip planner (see details below).
- Regional Transit Database (RTD) - The RTD is the central repository and data management system for comprehensive regional transit data used in the 511 Transit website, including the trip planner.

Aside from ongoing responsibilities to maintain and update the transit data needed for regional transit trip planning, MTC has initiated efforts to replace the existing Transtar trip planning application by spring 2008 with a new commercial off-the-shelf product developed by a vendor based in Germany named mdn. MTC will also expand the automated data transfer processes it recently implemented on AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit and SamTrans to other agencies, including County Connection, LAVTA and VTA. Finally, MTC will initiate some enhancements to transit information provided through personalized My 511 web services.

511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup System

Programmed to MTC: \$1,200,000

The April 2007 collapse of a portion of Interstate 580 in the Macarthur Maze served as an important real-life drill for emergency response and emphasized the need for MTC to make key emergency-related investments. One investment area is in the region's 511 Traveler Information Program. Our usage statistics revealed that the public turned to the 511 system, and our experience at Caltrans' transportation management center showed that 511 staff played a key role in collecting and disseminating important information about the road closure and transportation alternatives. In FY 07/08, \$1.2 million in STA funds will begin to make the 511 system more robust in the event of an emergency and improve its ability to respond, including:

- Relocate 511 servers (phone, web, trip planner) to facilities that offer burstable capacity and better operational uptime;
- Build and maintain redundant 511 systems (phone, web, trip planner) outside the Bay Area to ensure quick availability if the primary facility is destroyed; and
- Develop and implement an emergency response toolkit that uses fewer system resources resulting in more system capacity. The toolkit will provide greater flexibility in disseminating specific emergency information including a content management system that will allow for remote access to post valuable disaster-related transportation information to 511.org; an enhanced ticker on 511.org that provides specific, high-impact emergency messages; and tools to improve the automated system's ability to play emergency-specific information and detour driving times.

Regional Coordination Support

Programmed to MTC: \$1,621,000

Consistent with past practice, FY 2007-08 STA funds will support a portion of MTC staff costs related to the TransLink[®], Regional Transit Information System and Transit Connectivity projects. These projects are important transit coordination efforts under the SB 1474 Transit

Coordination and Implementation Plan. This staffing need is in response to the high visibility of these projects and the need for continuous coordination with transit agencies to assure successful implementation.

Transit Connectivity

Programmed to MTC: ***\$230,000***

Programmed to BART: ***\$50,000***

In April 2006, MTC adopted a Transit Connectivity Plan and incorporated its findings into the SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (Resolution 3055, Revised). In July 2006, MTC adopted the funding component of the Transit Connectivity Plan (Resolution 3771), which specifies the roles and responsibilities of MTC and the transit operators to pay for specific transit connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs. Consistent with the funding plan, MTC is investing \$10 million in initial capital improvements at 24 regional transit hubs (including 3 airports). The primary source of funding for this project will be Proposition 1B Public Transportation, Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) funds.

MTC and the transit agencies have conducted performance reviews of all hubs relative to the requirements of the Transit Connectivity Plan. In FY 07/08, MTC staff will work with transit agencies to address hub review findings and implement specific hub improvements. Efforts will focus on wayfinding signage as the most important connectivity project from a priority and project readiness standpoint. MTC and transit agencies will work together to define an approach to completing work at each hub, develop detailed conceptual plans for signage needs and placement, and develop engineering documents to guide signage fabrication, installation and cost estimates. Implementation will occur after MTC staff approval of the engineering documents. MTC will enter into funding agreements with each transit agency to perform the work, and in some cases may manage the work on behalf of transit agencies that do not have the resources to do so. As a first step, \$50,000 in STA is programmed to BART to complete a signage prototype and standard at the Embarcadero/ Ferry Terminal hub on behalf of the region.

The Transit Connectivity Plan also recommends a greater regional commitment to maintaining transit information in the RTICs. MTC plans to enter into an agreement with a transit operator to maintain RTICs on behalf of the region. In FY 2007-08, up to \$180,000 is programmed for these ongoing maintenance activities subject to execution of an agreement with MTC. Finally, \$50,000 in STA funds is programmed for review and monitoring of performance toward meeting the region's transit connectivity objectives.

Regional Transit Information Distribution

Programmed to MTC: ***\$100,000***

In FY 2007-08, \$100,000 will be programmed to support the distribution of regional transit information at a kiosk located at the Embarcadero BART/Muni station. Following the recommendations made in MTC's 2006 Transit Connectivity Plan, the transportation information

kiosk will provide the venue to distribute 511, TransLink, FasTrak, and other MTC-related information and display real-time transit information for BART, Muni and ferries. The funds will be used for kiosk operations and will be paid directly to the kiosk's vendor.

Regional Transit Marketing

Programmed to MTC: \$46,000

Marketing funds will be used to provide marketing, market research and support services for the 511 Traveler Information and TransLink® Programs, as well as to address other ad-hoc transit marketing needs. Consistent with the findings of the 511 Strategic Plan, the program will maintain its focus on increasing and sustaining usage of the 511 phone number and website (511.org) as well as developing a better understanding of how customers use the 511 system. As TransLink® is deployed on individual transit agencies in FY 2007-08, the program will promote the TransLink® card to transit riders to increase market share of TransLink®. STA funds will serve as local match to federal CMAQ funds for Regional Transportation Marketing.

Regional Public Opinion Poll

Programmed to MTC: \$100,000

Many of MTC's regional operations projects are customer-driven. Feedback from customers on the types of services they want and the best way to provide those services plays an important role in shaping project delivery. In FY 07/08, MTC will spend \$100,000 to better understand public awareness and opinions of regional services. Topics could include fare payment, traveler information, customer service and other transit connectivity issues.

Project Management Tools/IFAS Customization

Programmed to MTC: \$200,000

MTC will identify needs and solutions to improve internal project and budget management. More specifically, STA funds will be used to implement new tools to integrate and use the Accounting Department's Integrated Financial and Administrative Solution (IFAS) software more efficiently. Included in this effort will be to identify and create specific customized project management reports using the existing IFAS system. As a part of this effort, the expertise of a consultant from the IFAS software company is expected to be a part of the solution. In addition, MTC may also explore and implement other tools to facilitate project management at MTC.

Project Monitoring and Audits

Programmed to MTC: \$150,000

MTC will contract with an audit firm to conduct contract closeout audits, contract compliance audits, and other agreed upon procedure type audits for its transit-related projects. There may also be contracts that require an audit before retention is released.

Regional Operations Support Contingency

Programmed to MTC: \$430,000

These STA funds would be used in the event of unforeseen project needs or operating shortfalls with respect to MTC's regional operations projects such as TransLink[®] and the Regional Transit Information System. Unspent contingency funds will either be returned to the STA program at the end of FY 2007-08 for future reallocation to regional projects, or retained (in which case they will offset next year's contingency request).

Regional Paratransit Program

Programmed to CCCTA: \$75,000

In FY 2007-08, \$75,000 in STA funds will support a 'lead agency' for the Regional Paratransit Program. This approach is consistent with the goals of the Transit Coordination and Implementation Plan, which endorses the concept of reimbursement for services provided by a Lead Agency on behalf of other operators. The lead agency is the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA). CCCTA will coordinate paratransit operational activities such as:

- Oversight of the Paratransit Eligibility Program and Regional Eligibility Database, and delivery of the Paratransit Technical Assistance Program through a consultant; and
- Liaison between the PTCC Accessibility Committee and MTC, including reporting on the status of activities.

CCCTA will provide progress reports summarizing work performed.

Regional Eligibility Database

Programmed to CCCTA: \$40,000

A Regional Eligibility Database (RED) was developed in 1994 to facilitate the regional ADA eligibility process. The RED consists of two systems: 1) a database of eligibility information, and 2) a network connecting 23 paratransit operator client sites to the RED. A primary purpose of the RED is to allow participating transit operators to easily verify the eligibility status of persons throughout the region. The RED was upgraded over the past few years. STA funds will be used to provide technical support to RED users and administrators through a consultant contract managed by CCCTA.

Regional Express Bus Program

Programmed to LAVTA: \$21,000

Programmed to SamTrans: \$496,000

MTC initiated the Regional Express Bus Program in 2000, when the region received a state Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) grant of \$40 million for the purchase of 94 buses. These buses went to 9 operators that had proposed starting or expanding express bus routes. Regional STA funds were proposed to support these routes for the first five years. Regional Measure 2 passed in 2004, which provided ongoing operating support for express bus services which could meet performance standards established by MTC. Most of the TCRP routes were incorporated into the RM2 program. However, two routes which were not eligible for the RM2

program continue to receive STA funding for the transition period. The FY 2007-08 funding for these routes is \$21,000 for LAVTA and \$496,000 for SamTrans. This source of operating support will end after FY 2009-10.

Transit Emergency Satellite Telephones

Programmed to MTC: \$16,000

In FY 2006-07, MTC used STA funds to purchase and operate mobile and fixed satellite telephones for emergency communications between eight transit agencies. In FY 2007-08, \$16,000 in STA funds is programmed to MTC to cover one year of operating costs.

Transit Efficiency

Programmed to MTC: \$50,000

This project will follow-up on the work performed in Spring 2006 to evaluate the state of transit efficiency among Bay Area transit operators. The original effort was at the request of the MTC Advisory Council and led to a dialogue between MTC Commissioners and transit general managers as part of a Commission Workshop. The \$50,000 proposed in the FY 2007-08 budget will be used to further initiatives related to establishing regional best practices, developing regional performance targets, and furthering functional or institutional consolidation objectives.

Transit Facilitation/Studies Contingency

Programmed to MTC: \$160,000

These funds will allow MTC to respond to regional or subregional transit planning needs or requests as they arise throughout FY 2007-08. For example, a study may be completed that recommends additional follow-up, a partnership opportunity may arise that benefits MTC's regional transit coordination objectives or a particularly difficult regional issue may emerge that requires consulting assistance to forge consensus.

Legislative Consultant

Programmed to MTC: \$205,000

STA funds will be used for MTC's contract for legislative consultant work in Washington, D.C. The legislative consultant performs important advocacy and reconnaissance services related to transit on behalf of the region.

Lifeline Transportation

Programmed to MTC: \$150,000

Programmed to claimants yet to be determined: \$1,000,000

As the successor to the Low-Income Flexible Transportation (LIFT) Program, MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program seeks to improve the mobility of low-income individuals. The Commission approved an initial Lifeline Program of Projects for FY 2005/06 - FY 2007/08 in

December of 2006. The Commission previously allocated 6.5 million in STA funds to fund these projects. \$1 million in 07/08 STA funds is also allocated for this purpose.

In addition, \$150,000 in STA funds is reprogrammed to MTC for the Oakland Library Shuttle which received an award of Lifeline funds in FY 2006-07, but was unable to enter into an agreement with MTC prior to the fund expiration date.

Community-Based Transportation Plans

Programmed to MTC: \$1,200,000

In 2002, MTC launched the community-based transportation planning (CBTP) program, a collaborative planning process that involves residents in minority and low-income communities, community organizations that serve them, transit operators, congestion management agencies and MTC. The outcome of the planning process is a community-based transportation plan that includes locally-identified transportation needs, as well as solutions to address them. MTC initially funded plans in 25 communities. MTC will fund an additional 19 plans with STA funds so that plans will be completed in all forty-four communities of concern listed in the Transportation 2030 Equity Analysis.

Urban Partnership Projects

Programmed to MTC: \$850,000

In August 2007, the Bay Area was awarded \$158 million in federal funds by the US DOT under the Urban Partnership Program (UPP) to implement an innovative congestion relief program with a focus on downtown San Francisco and Doyle Drive. As part of the award, MTC received funds for various Regional Technology projects which seek to leverage MTC's existing operational projects to provide greater customer service and congestion relief benefits to San Francisco-bound travelers. \$850,000 in STA funds will serve as local match for three of these Regional Technology projects:

- 511 Real-Time Transit Information – This project will provide real-time transit departure information to transit customers via 511 phone and web as well as through a PDA application with a focus on San Francisco Muni and Golden Gate Transit routes.
- 511 Multimodal Traveler Information – This project will enable 511 users to compare traffic and transit travel times and costs for specific trips to help them make informed decisions about the best way to travel. Phase 1 will create a web-based multimodal trip planner to compare historic traffic and transit travel time and cost. Phase 2 will integrate real-time traffic and transit times into the web-based multimodal trip planner. Phase 3 will develop a phone application for the multimodal trip planner.
- Regional Parking Payment and Integrated Mobility Account – This project will upgrade TransLink® software to enable payment of variable parking prices at meters and/or garages in San Francisco. The project could also support the creation of a 'one stop shop' for San Francisco electronic payment customers to access information about their travel costs (parking costs, bridge/road tolls, transit costs, etc.). Since a parking meter application of TransLink® is not an eligible STA expense, MTC plans to exchange these

funds within the existing TransLink[®] budget for \$250,000 in previously allocated STP Exchange funds to satisfy fund eligibility requirements.