



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 9

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*Memorandum*

TO: Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee      DATE: August 28, 2008  
FR: Christina Atienza  
RE: New Freedom Second Cycle Recommendations

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Freedom Program addresses the transportation needs of disabled persons through the provision of new services and facility improvements that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. In May 2008, MTC adopted Resolution No. 3877, which set forth the guidelines for the selection of projects to be funded under the second cycle of the program. The available funding includes the \$1.6 million FY 2007 apportionment for the Bay Area's five large urbanized areas (UAs), and the \$1 million FY 2007 through FY 2009 target programming amount provided by Caltrans for the Bay Area's seven small UAs.

MTC issued the call for projects in June 2008, with applications due at the end of July 2008. For the large UA funds, MTC received 14 applications totaling \$2.4 million in requests. For the small UA funds, MTC received five applications totaling \$0.6 million. A panel consisting of Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee and Advisory Council members and MTC staff evaluated the applications.

Recommended Projects in Large Urbanized Areas

Attachment 1 lists the applications from highest to lowest score, and shows the recommended grant amount for each project. There are instances where lower-scoring projects are recommended for funding while higher-scoring projects are not, and where recommended grants are less than the amount requested by the sponsor. This is the result of having to balance the following interrelated factors:

- a project's score relative to other projects within the same UA;
- the extent to which a project would affect each UA, if eligible in many;
- the scalability of a project, if competing in oversubscribed UAs; and,
- the objective of using as much of the available funds as possible.

In those instances, project sponsors have been consulted on the recommended modifications, and concur with them. If the recommendations are approved, MTC would enter into agreements with the project sponsors that are slated to receive New Freedom funds.

#### Recommended Prioritization of Small Urbanized Area Applications

Attachment 2 lists the applications from highest to lowest score. If approved, this prioritization would be submitted to Caltrans for funding consideration in a statewide competition. If funded by Caltrans, the project sponsors would enter into agreements with Caltrans.

MTC did not receive any applications for the Livermore, Napa, and Petaluma small UA funds, which in total amount to about \$300,000. If small UAs in the state are undersubscribed, Caltrans may issue another call for projects for the remaining funds, at which time MTC staff could conduct focused outreach in the urbanized areas that did not submit applications for this cycle.

#### Next Steps

Staff will present the recommendations to MTC's Programming & Allocations Committee for approval on September 10, 2008. If approved, the recommendations will be referred to the Commission for adoption on September 24, 2008.

**NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM – SECOND CYCLE  
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS IN LARGE URBANIZED AREAS**

Rank	Sponsor: Project	Total Cost	Federal Amount Requested	Average Score	Recommended Grant Amount
1	LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Accessible BART Station Maps	\$ 218,000	\$ 174,400	93.5	\$ 174,400
2	Outreach & Escort: Mobility Management Center - Santa Clara County	\$ 499,250	\$ 399,400	89.7	\$ 399,440
3	SamTrans: Peninsula Rides Implementation	\$ 654,579	\$ 521,581	88.2	\$ 177,857
4	AC Transit: Mobile Data Terminals/ Automatic Vehicle Locators for East Bay Paratransit Fleet	\$ 660,000	\$ 300,000	88.0	\$ 300,000
5	San Francisco MTA: Paratransit Shopping Shuttle	\$ 520,000	\$ 260,000	87.5	\$ 260,000

Rank	Sponsor: Project	Total Cost	Federal Amount Requested	Average Score	Recommended Grant Amount
6	CCCTA/ County Connection: Contra Costa Mobility Management Phase II	\$ 100,000	\$ 80,000	85.7	\$ 80,000
7	Marin Transit: Mobility Management Office	\$ 144,813	\$ 115,850	82.0	\$ 115,850
8	AC Transit: East Bay Paratransit Interactive Voice Response/Web-Based Schedule System	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	81.0	\$ -
9	AC Transit: Audible NextBus Information at Bus Stops	\$ 55,000	\$ 44,000	80.7	\$ -
10	Lafayette, City of: Lamorinda Spirit Van Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities	\$ 92,503	\$ 24,581	79.7	\$ 24,481

Rank	Sponsor: Project	Total Cost	Federal Amount Requested	Average Score	Recommended Grant Amount
11	St. Mini Cab Corp.: Wheelchair-Accessible Taxi Cabs, East Bay	\$ 175,000	\$ 140,000	79.2	\$ -
12	SamTrans: Millbrae Community Transportation Coordination Plan	\$ 64,913	\$ 51,354	77.5	\$ -
13	Santa Rosa CityBus: Low Floor Bus Purchase for Enhanced Oakmont Service	\$ 600,000	\$ 80,089	77.2	\$ 80,089
14	Rio Vista, City of: Service Expansion, Travel Training, and Expansion of Taxi Scrip Program	\$ 71,010	\$ 35,505	66.3	\$ -
		Total Requested	\$2,426,760	Total Recommended	\$ 1,612,117
				Total Available	\$ 1,612,117

**NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM – SECOND CYCLE  
RECOMMENDED PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS IN SMALL URBANIZED AREAS**

Rank	Sponsor: Project	Total Cost	Federal Amount Requested	Urbanized Area	Total Score (max 100)
1	Vacaville City Coach: Various Enhancements	\$ 60,489	\$ 128,391	Vacaville	90
2	Faith in Action: Expanded Transportation Services	\$ 93,175	\$ 47,650	Fairfield, Vacaville, Vallejo	80
3	Vallejo, City of: Mobility Management	\$ 12,500	\$ 250,000	Vallejo	55
4	Outreach & Escort, Inc.: Mobility Management - South County	\$ 106,032	\$ 84,826	Gilroy-Morgan Hill	50
5	Rio Vista, City of: Expanded Delta Breeze Route 50	\$ 210,000	\$ 105,000	Fairfield	30
			Total Requested	\$ 615,867	
			Total Available*	\$ 991,014	

\* The total available is based on the following target amounts provided by Caltrans:  
 Fairfield - \$166,539, Gilroy-Morgan Hill - \$84,825, Livermore - \$98,750, Napa - \$123,621,  
 Petaluma - \$73,957, Vacaville - \$128,969, Vallejo - \$314,353