



## AGENDA ITEM 4

METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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### *Memorandum*

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: July 1, 2009

FR: Jennifer Yeamans

RE: Staff Liaison Report

#### Updated Member Contact Information

There is an updated Advisory Council member contact list. An electronic copy will be sent out with the meeting packet, and hard copies will be provided at the July 10 meeting for your MTC Advisory Committee Handbook binders.

#### Rep. Oberstar Releases Surface Transportation Authorization Blueprint and Draft Bill

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James L. Oberstar (D-Minn.) released a white paper outlining plans for the new national surface transportation authorization bill. The authorization bill is currently being drafted and will replace the current authorization, SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), which is due to expire September 30, 2009.

Rep. Oberstar has promised that the new authorization will transform the way the federal government invests highway, safety, and transit funds, as outlined in the white paper and related documents, which are available at MTC's web site: [www.mtc.ca.gov/legislation/oberstar.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/legislation/oberstar.htm). Documents include an executive summary of the bill's objectives and a list of approximately 75 programs that are proposed to be consolidated or eliminated in the new bill, as well as the 774-page preliminary draft bill text in its entirety.

#### New Freedom Program Call for Projects: Third Funding Cycle for Large Urbanized Areas

MTC is currently soliciting projects in the San Francisco Bay Area's large urbanized areas (UAs) for the Federal Transit Administration's New Freedom program (49 USC § 5317). The New Freedom program provides grants for new capital and operational projects aimed at reducing, beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, transportation barriers faced by individuals with disabilities.

The available funding is \$3.7 million for the Bay Area's large urbanized areas (Antioch, Concord, San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa). Eligible applicants include non-profits, local governments, and public transportation operators. The application deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, August 7, 2009.

#### MTC Brokers Regional Consensus on High-Speed and Commuter Rail Package to Compete for Economic Stimulus Funds

MTC adopted a plan this week for using federal economic stimulus funds to expedite the arrival of high-speed rail service to the San Francisco Bay Area, while at the same time upgrading commuter rail service along the Peninsula Corridor that runs from San Francisco through Silicon

Valley to San Jose. The package is the result of a collaborative effort by MTC, the cities of San Francisco and San Jose, and stakeholder transportation agencies along the route.

The plan lays out nearly \$3.4 billion in regional rail projects, with just over half of that to come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed by Congress in February of this year. Together, these projects are projected to generate more than 100,000 jobs. For more information, visit MTC's web site.

#### FOCUS Forum: Health in Urban Areas

The third and final FOCUS Forum is this month:

##### **Health in Urban Areas**

Thursday, July 9, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bayside Rooms, Port of San Francisco

Pier 1, The Embarcadero

San Francisco

FOCUS is a regional planning effort that encourages future Bay Area growth near transit and in existing communities to continue to improve our natural environment and quality of life. It is an initiative of four regional agencies: the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), in partnership with congestion management agencies and local governments throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information, visit [www.bayareavision.org](http://www.bayareavision.org) or contact JoAnna Bullock, 510.464.7968, [joannab@abag.ca.gov](mailto:joannab@abag.ca.gov).

#### Packet Attachments

The packet includes the following materials:

- Agenda Item 6 – Information – No handout
- Agenda Item 7 – Discussion/Possible Action – Subcommittee memo
- Agenda Item 8 – Information/Discussion – Staff memo and attachments
- Agenda Item 9 – Discussion – Staff memo, attachments, and PowerPoint presentation