

# Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

October 14, 2009

Item Number 3b

**Subject:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Deadline Extension Requests

**Background:** On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which enacted a \$787 billion economic recovery package calling for significant new spending as well as tax cuts. The ARRA includes \$48 billion for the Department of Transportation. Specifically, the Act includes \$27.5 billion in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding and \$8.4 billion in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. On February 25, 2009 the Commission approved the programming of an initial amount of \$154 million for the FHWA portion and the full amount of \$341 million for the FTA portion (MTC Resolution No. 3885). On April 22, 2009 the Commission approved an additional \$157 million in FHWA funds authorized under AB3X 20 (MTC Resolution 3896). In all, the regional ARRA programming totals roughly \$660 million.

Both resolutions stipulated a series of deadlines to ensure timely delivery of projects and use of ARRA funds. Three project sponsors are encountering challenges meeting the upcoming deadlines or are recommending delivery strategies to streamline the use of funds that extend beyond the deadlines, and are requesting extensions from MTC. Staff finds these requests are reasonable and will not jeopardize ARRA funds to the region. The specific projects, delivery issues, applicable deadlines, and extensions are provided below:

- **Vasco Road Safety Improvements (Safety and Smart Highway Projects):** Contra Costa County plans on using this project as the mechanism to absorb cost savings accruing from most of the other ARRA projects throughout the county. This would happen shortly after the date of the contract award for Vasco Road. Therefore this strategy requires postponing the Vasco Road contract award to capture savings from other projects. *Award deadline is December 31, 2009; request is for an extension until March 31, 2010.*
- **Replacement of Anodes and Anode Cables on the Transbay Tube (Transit Preservation):** BART released an RFP for construction services for this project on August 6 and received proposals on September 15. A review of the proposals found the responders to be unresponsive to the bid requirements. Therefore, BART would like to rebid the project and requests additional time to do so. *Award deadline is November 30, 2009; request is for an extension until January 31, 2010.*

- **SR 29 Bicycle Safety Improvements (Safety and Smart Highway Projects):** The Town of Yountville (Napa County) requires additional time to complete technical requirements that have arisen as this project has shifted closer to the active roadway of SR 29. Scheduling additional interdepartmental consultations with Caltrans has taken additional time and has pushed the task timeline further into the year. *Obligation deadline is November 30, 2009; request is for an extension until December 31, 2009. Award deadline is December 31, 2009; request is for an extension until February 28, 2010.*

**Issues:** None.

**Recommendation:** Concur with requests for ARRA project delivery deadline extensions

**Attachment:** None