



AGENDA ITEM 4

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: September 2, 2009

FR: Jennifer Yeamans

RE: Staff Liaison Report

STP/CMAQ Programming Proposal: Comments from Advisory Council Members

At your August meeting, members were advised to submit comments on the draft STP/CMAQ programming proposal to MTC staff by email. Comments from Council members received by staff since your August meeting are attached to this report for your review and information.

At your September 9 meeting, Mr. Craig Goldblatt will update you on the proposal, including input received from MTC's Programming and Allocations Committee (Agenda Item 7).

Pedestrian/Bicycle Path Debuts on Benicia-Martinez Bridge

Festivities were held August 29 to mark the official opening of a new pedestrian/bicycle path on the George Miller, Jr. Memorial Bridge leading from Benicia to Martinez. MTC, Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), and Caltrans hosted opening events at both ends of the bridge, with a ribbon-cutting in Martinez at the foot of the bridge kicking off the festivities. Attendees then joined in the official first walk/ride across the bridge, where an opening ceremony followed at Vista Point in Benicia. More information on the pedestrian/bicycle path and photos from the event are available at MTC's web site.

TransLink® Rollouts Continue

TransLink continues to roll out on the Bay Area's transit systems. TransLink became operational on BART August 3, while Caltrain is seeking participants for the soft launch of the smart card on its rail system. On August 20, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) announced plans to install 98 new TransLink-only fare gates in the Muni Metro system, including extra-wide lanes that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Packet Attachments

The packet includes the following materials:

- Agenda Item 6 – Information – No handout
- Agenda Item 7 – Information/Discussion – September 9 MTC Programming and Allocations Committee staff memo and attachments
- Agenda Item 8 – Discussion/Possible Action – Staff memo and attachment
- Agenda Item 9 – Information – Staff memo and attachments

ATTACHMENT A

Summary of Advisory Council member comments submitted by e-mail on the draft STP/CMAQ Programming Proposal presented at your August 12 meeting:

- Would SAFE and TransLink programs run out of money without taking Climate Initiative money? When does MTC expect to start funding the Climate Initiative? What on the Safe Routes and Climate Initiatives, in dollar amounts, will be deferred as a result of funding the Freeway Performance Initiative as a priority?
- Response: The regional operations programs such as TransLink and SAFE need to be funded immediately starting with Year 1 and continuing through Year 6 in order to keep them going. Other programs have the flexibility of being deferred and/or funded at different levels. Transportation 2035 established that the regional operations programs are “committed,” so they would be funded before any other projects using discretionary funds such as STP/CMAQ. So there really is no trade-off between these programs and the Climate Initiatives program.
- Difficult to understand the practical implications of the presentation. It would be more beneficial to have choices presented rather than conclusions.
- Oppose reducing the Climate Program earmark. Proposal is to expedite projects already approved by Commission, but some of these projects are wasteful while some alternative projects that might perform better are “orphaned.” Disagree on gradual-ramping up (pp. 5-6 of staff memorandum); delaying Climate program does not provide funds for other programs, only shifts timing. Details surrounding the delay are too vague.
- Response: Concerns about the Climate program have been raised by others, and will hopefully be addressed by the time staff returns in September to update Advisory Council on the proposal.