



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 10

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

DATE: September 24, 2009

FR: Kristen Mazur

RE: New Freedom Cycle 3 Update

Background

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Freedom Program provides grants for new capital and operational projects aimed at reducing transportation barriers faced by individuals with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Funds are apportioned by formula to large urbanized areas (UAs), small UAs, and rural areas based on the population of persons with disabilities in each UA. Funds are required to be spent on projects that provide transportation services within those areas, and funds cannot be transferred between UAs. MTC, as the designated recipient of the Bay Area's large UA funds, is responsible for conducting a competitive selection process for those funds. Caltrans, as the designated recipient for the state's small UA and rural area funds, is currently conducting a separate statewide call for projects for \$1.6 million in small UA funds and \$0.7 million in non-UA funds.

Third Funding Cycle for Large UAs

In May 2009, MTC adopted Resolution No. 3905, which set forth guidelines for the competitive selection of third cycle projects, which includes FY 2008 and FY 2009 apportionments for the Bay Area's five large UAs (Antioch, Santa Rosa, Concord, San Jose, and San Francisco-Oakland). MTC issued a call for projects totaling \$3.7 million in June 2009 and applications were due in August 2009. MTC received 20 applications requesting a total of \$8.5 million.

Of the 20 applications, five were operational projects, five were traditional capital projects (e.g., vehicle or equipment purchases), two were a combination of operations and traditional capital, and the remaining eight projects involved mobility management, which FTA considers an eligible capital expense. For this program, mobility management focuses on the needs of the transportation-disadvantaged disabled population, and involves coordinating tailored services to more cost-effectively meet the needs of this market. Mobility management figures prominently in SAFETEA's human service transportation coordination initiatives, and is identified as a need in the Bay Area's own Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan").

Following an initial eligibility screening by MTC staff, eligible projects were evaluated by a panel consisting of three Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) members and two MTC staff. Applications were scored based on the following criteria: (1) need and benefits; (2) coordination, partnership, and outreach; and (3) project readiness. Applicants were asked to cite — and the evaluation panel took into consideration — the relevant gaps, solutions, and/or strategies from the Coordinated Plan that each project was intended to address.

After all of the projects were scored and ranked, recommended grant amounts were preliminarily determined based on three interrelated factors:

1. A project's score relative to other projects within the same UA;
2. The scalability of a project, if competing in oversubscribed UAs; and
3. The objective of using as much of the available funds as possible.

The above constraints resulted in some instances where recommended grant amounts were less than requested. In those cases, MTC staff consulted with project sponsors to confirm that they could implement a viable element of their initial proposal with only partial funding.

Next Steps

In October, MTC staff will be at the Partnership's Transit Finance Working

Group and EDAC to discuss the recommended program of projects. The program will then be presented to the Programming and Allocations Committee for approval at their October 14th meeting.

If the recommendations are approved, MTC will program the projects into the TIP, submit a grant to FTA, and enter into funding agreements with the project sponsors upon FTA grant approval.