

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

January 13, 2010

Item Number 3b

FTA Urban Circulator and Bus Livability Initiative Program Summary

Subject: FTA notices of \$280 million in funding available for Urban Circulator and Livability Initiatives

Background: **FTA Discretionary Program Funding**

On December 8, 2009, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released two notices of funding availability, one for Urban Circulator Systems and one for Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program Grants. Both programs use unallocated prior year funds from the FTA Section 5309 program.

The Urban Circulator program makes available \$130 million in unallocated New Starts/Small Starts funds for projects seeking less than \$25 million for new fixed guideway projects that connect urban destinations and foster redevelopment. The principles and evaluation criteria generally focus on increasing transportation choices, coordinating with existing efforts and policies, and expanding housing and employment options.

The Bus Livability Program will be funded with \$150 million in unallocated Section 5309 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities funds. This program is geared to public transit projects that replace transit vehicles or that construct bus-related facilities including multi-modal facilities. Projects can be in rural or urban areas, and the notice encourages projects that support the independence of elderly and disabled persons.

Funds for both programs are for capital projects only and may not be used for operating expenses. It appears that projects that are expecting to apply for regular New or Small Starts funds are precluded from applying to these programs; additional eligibility guidance is expected later this month. Eligible transit operators may apply directly to FTA. MPO action is not required, but MPO endorsement is an evaluation criterion for the Bus Livability program. Applications to FTA are due by February 8th.

Potential Bay Area Projects

Given the short time lines for assembling applications, in December MTC staff conducted an initial solicitation of interest among the Bay Area transit operators and local jurisdictions. Ten agencies from throughout the region responded with 18 projects, listed in Table A, requesting about \$144 million. Note that some of these projects may not be eligible for the funds, pending further guidance from FTA.

Staff Recommendation

Because of the widespread interest in the program, and the relatively small grant awards that are likely to result from the nationwide competition, staff recommends that MTC support any RTP-consistent, eligible project in the region that seeks to apply for the funds.

Issues: None

Recommendation: Information Only

Attachments: Table A – Potential Bay Area Project Applications

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Table A – Potential Bay Area Project Applications*
 as Presented to MTC

Agency	Project Name	Potential Funding Request (\$ millions)
<i>Urban Circulator Program</i>		
AC Transit	Hybrid Articulated Buses for BRT	24.0
SFMTA	Van Ness BRT	25.0
VTA	Santa Clara/Alum Rock BRT	25.0
TJPA	Right of Way Preservation for Caltrain Downtown Extension	1.8
<i>TOTAL:</i>		75.8
<i>Bus Livability Program</i>		
Union City	Union City Station District East Plaza Transit Loop	1.9
NCTPA	Relocate Existing Downtown Terminal	4.2
City of Vallejo	Vallejo Station Intermodal Facility	1.7
City of Vallejo	Buses	3.5
City of Vallejo	Parking Structure at Curtola Lemon	1.0
SFCTA	Extension of 14-Mission Muni Line to Daly City BART	4.0
SFCTA	19 th Avenue Bulbouts	8.0
SFMTA	Phelan Loop	4.9
VTA	East San Jose Community Bus Facilities Improvement	8.0
SamTrans	San Carlos Transit Village	5.6
SamTrans	Operating/Maintenance Facility Energy Efficiency Program	1.6
Fairfield	Fairfield Transportation Center	11.9
TJPA	Geothermal System for the Transbay Transit Center	7.6
TJPA	Lighting Efficiencies and Daylighting for the Transbay Transit Center	4.1
<i>TOTAL:</i>		68.0

* Still pending eligibility determination.