



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5e

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: May 6, 2011

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 427 (Pérez) — Proposition 1B Transportation Bond Funds: Transit System Safety

Background

AB 427 (Pérez) is a technical clean-up bill related to the Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Program to ensure the timely expenditure of funds by requiring eligible sponsors to notify the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) when they intend to spend their designated shares. Under the terms of the bill, project sponsors would be given 45 days to notify Cal-EMA of the intent to spend the funds within a three-year time frame. Failure to do so would result in redistribution of the funds either by the regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) or, if the RTPA does not indicate interest within 30 days of notification, by Cal-EMA to an operator outside the region of the original recipient.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

In 2006, the Legislature enacted SB 1266, authorizing Proposition 1B, a \$20 billion transportation bond approved by the voters in November 2006 that included a \$1 billion program for the Transit System Safety, Security, and Disaster Response Program. This bond program was subdivided into three categories: 60 percent Mass Transit Program, 25 percent Regional Public Water Transit Agency in the Bay Area, 15 percent Intercity Rail. Current law restricts an eligible entity from claiming funding from both the Intercity/Commuter Rail category and the STA category. In the Bay Area, this pertains solely to the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) system. Since ACE is claiming funds (totaling about \$15 million) under the rail category, its share of STA funds cannot be reassigned to another worthy project. Additionally, some operators receive such a small share of funding that they cannot spend it in a timely manner. AB 427 would require that they provide timely notification to the state if they anticipate this to be the case.

Because AB 427 would improve the expenditure of Proposition 1B funds in a timely manner, we recommend a support position on the bill.

Known Positions

Support

None

Oppose

None

Steve Heminger