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Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Programming and Allocations Committee
May 11, 2011
Minutes

Chair Kinsey called the meeting to order at approximately 10:48 a.m. Committee members present were: Vice Chair Glover, Commissioners Bates, Campos, Cortese, Haggerty, and Sartipi. Commissioners Tissier and Rein-Worth were present as ad hoc voting members of the Committee. Other Commissioners present as ad hoc members of the Committee were: Giacopini, Green, Halsted, Mackenzie, and Spering.

Consent Calendar

The Committee unanimously approved the following consent items after a motion by Commissioner Haggerty and a second by Commissioner Cortese:

- Minutes of April 13, 2011 meeting;
- 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 2011-06. MTC Resolution No. 3975, Revised;
- LIFT and Cycle 1 Lifeline Program Revisions and Santa Clara County Cycle 2 Lifeline Programming. MTC Resolution Nos. 3518, Revised, 3788, Revised, and 3881, Revised;
- Proposition 1B – Transit: FY2009-10 and FY2010-11 Population-based Funds Allocation Requests. MTC Resolution No. 3880, Revised; and
- Proposition 1B – Transit: FY2009-10 and FY2010-11 Population-based Funds Allocation Requests. MTC Resolution No. 3882, Revised;

Federal

- *New Freedom Cycle 4 Program Guidelines for large urbanized areas. MTC Resolution No. 4012.*

Kristen Mazur, MTC Programming and Allocations Section, presented proposed guidelines for the Cycle 4 New Freedom Program including the funding level and timeline. She reviewed some proposed revisions from prior funding cycles in the areas of program oversight, administration costs, and project delivery requirements.

The Committee, upon the motion of Commissioner Cortese with a second by Commissioner Glover, unanimously approved the referral of MTC Resolution No.4012 to the Commission for approval.

- *Station Area and Land Use Planning Grant Recommendations of \$3 million. MTC Resolution Nos. 3723, Revised, and 3925, Revised.*

Therese Trivedi, MTC Programming and Allocations Section, presented recommendations for six planning grants totaling approximately \$2.4 million to award funding through the Station Area and Land Use Planning grant program.

Commissioner Jake Mackenzie commented that Sonoma County and the City of Rohnert Park are in the process of requesting a relocation of a station on the SMART corridor from the north end of Rohnert Park to a more central location and will likely approach MTC for a Station Area Planning grant in the future.

Commissioner Scott Haggerty commented that if we are unable to recommend the full amount requested for the City of Fremont, we should invest in station area planning for the parcel that is adjacent to the BART station and not owned by Union Pacific Railroad (UP) as well as planning that shows that the highest and best use of the land is housing rather than a rail yard.

Executive Director, Steve Heminger, responded that there are two issues: 1) the request from the City of Fremont was for \$600,000 and exceeded funding capacity; and 2) uncertainty with UP creates a timing issue so that the planning process is only undertaken once. The issue isn't whether or not we should do it, rather when we should do it. The staff preference is to wait until we know more and can fully fund the project.

Commissioner Tom Bates asked when the second round will begin and for more information on the purpose of the funds. Ms. Trivedi responded that the second round would begin around June of 2012 and the purpose would be to have the local jurisdictions look at the land uses in and around the station area and various land use alternatives, then select one and complete an analysis on housing, economic development, station access, design, and infrastructure improvements that would be needed and support transit ridership.

Under public comments, representing the City of Fremont, Jeff Schwab, Lori Taylor, Anu Natarajan, and Dominic Dutra presented updates on what the City of Fremont has done to secure a plan for the station area. Commissioner Haggerty asked the City of Fremont how they would use \$276,000, if it was granted. Mr. Dutra responded that those funds would be used towards zoning, general plan designation and planning. Commissioner Steve Kinsey asked if the City of Fremont is still willing to add 20% of funding to the project and Mr. Schwab responded yes and significant additional resources are also being added. Commissioner Tom Bates asked what the City of Fremont hopes to accomplish over the next year. Mr. Schwab responded that over the next year the Economic Development Administration (EDA) studies, grant process, and preliminary environmental and air quality studies will be completed.

Tilly Chang, San Francisco Transportation Authority, and Sarah Dennis Phillips, San Francisco Planning Department spoke in support of the staff recommendation for the Station Area and Land Use Planning grant program.

Commissioner Mark Green asked if the \$2.7 million funding for one year is set in stone and Ms. Trivedi responded that it is not. Additionally, Commissioner Green asked, if the City of Fremont is successful in getting the funding for \$276,000 for this year, would they automatically receive the

funding for the second round or would they have to resubmit a request. Ms. Trivedi responded it would be left up to the Committee but it would make sense for staff to work with the City of Fremont to determine how best to award funding for the second cycle.

Commissioner Scott Haggerty commented that this area of the City of Fremont is a Priority Development Area (PDA), that the City of Fremont has a substantial amount of population expected through the housing assessment, and there are 800 acres of land of which UP is still trying to determine what to do with. Commissioner Haggerty recommended moving the item for approval and adding the \$276,000 funding for the City of Fremont and continue to work with staff for the balance in the future.

Commissioner Tom Bates seconded the motion but would like staff to work with the City of Fremont to accomplish an overall goal. Ms. Trivedi responded that MTC and ABAG staff are very involved in the process.

Commissioner David Campos requested that staff further explain the reason for their recommendation. Ms. Trivedi explained that the uncertainty of UP played a major role in the decision as well as the timing of the economic development grant. Therefore, rather than recommending the funding now, the thought was that since the City intends to be finished with the EDA grant project in the fall, that would coincide with the next funding round. Commissioner Campos further asked if staff has any comments regarding the idea that providing the funding would somehow influence UP going forward. Mr. Heminger responded that UP has been challenging to work with in the past.

Commissioner Jim Spering requested that a site map outlining UP's property be brought back to the full Commission and that the City of Fremont further outline what they intend to accomplish with the funds granted.

Commissioner Kinsey commented that he would like staff to work with the City of Fremont in developing a plan that has a series of checkpoints and that milestones must be accomplished to receive additional funding.

The Committee, upon the motion of Commissioner Haggerty with a second by Commissioner Bates, unanimously approved the referral of MTC Resolution Nos. 3723, Revised, and 3925, Revised with the \$276,000 added for the City of Fremont to the Commission for approval.

Regional

- *Proposed rescission of AB 1171 funds. MTC Resolution No. 3914, Revised.*

Amy Burch, MTC Programming and Allocations Section, requested a rescission of approximately \$76 million in AB1171 funds to the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) for the Transbay Transit Center project.

The Committee, upon the motion of Commissioner Cortese with a second by Commissioner Rein-Worth, unanimously approved the referral of MTC Resolution No. 3914, Revised to the Commission for approval.

State

- *Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Cost Savings.*

Alix Bockelman, MTC Programming and Allocations Section, requested the endorsement by the Committee to submit a letter to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in support of the proposed regional project list to use CMIA savings.

Commissioner Jake Mackenzie suggested that the Sonoma 101 Narrows contract be considered because it is a large project with environmental clearance and could be ready for construction by June of 2012.

Commissioner Mark Green asked if we do not receive all of the funding being requested of CTC, how the projects would be ranked inside each of the tiers. Ms. Bockelman responded that the hope is not to prioritize the projects within the tiers. Caltrans must also submit their endorsed list to CTC on May 16 and they may be prioritizing the projects but staff's recommendation is that all of the Tier 1 projects are strong and should be submitted as a group at this point. Commissioner Green further commented that there are some projects on Tier 2 that should receive help sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Steve Kinsey recommended expanding staff's priority list to include the Marin Sonoma Narrows A2 contract in the Tier 1 and prioritizing Sonoma's Petaluma River Bridge project within Tier 2 because it is more ready in terms of having its environmental completed.

The Committee, upon the motion of Commissioner Haggerty with a second by Commissioner Bates, unanimously approved the endorsement of the proposed project list including Marin Sonoma Narrows A2 and with the Petaluma River Bridge project as first priority within Tier 2 to use potential cost savings from the CMIA program and directed staff to write a letter of support to the CTC.

Public Comment

Commissioner Kinsey adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:47 a.m.