



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: August 2, 2011

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – August 2011

Deadline Extended for New Freedom Grant Program

The deadline for submitting projects for the New Freedom Grant program has been extended. MTC is currently soliciting projects in the San Francisco Bay Area's large urbanized areas for the Federal Transit Administration's New Freedom grant program (49 USC Section 5317). The New Freedom program provides grants for new capital and operating projects aimed at reducing, beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, transportation barriers faced by individuals with disabilities. The available funding is \$3.7 million for the Bay Area's large urbanized areas. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local government authorities, and public transportation operators. **The application deadline has been extended, and applications are now due no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, September 2, 2011.**

Additional information, including MTC's Program Guidelines and the application form, is available at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/new_freedom.htm. For questions and more information, contact the program manager, Kristen Mazur, at 510-817-5789.

Plan Bay Area Community-Based Outreach Results Finalized

Outreach to gain public feedback on the development of Plan Bay Area began this past spring when MTC and ABAG conducted ten public workshops, one in each of the nine Bay Area counties, plus an additional Oakland workshop to accommodate the high level of interest from the public. Workshop results were presented at the June 10 meeting of the Joint MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Executive Committee.

In addition, MTC selected 14 non-profit Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) through a competitive bid process to help engage low-income communities and communities of color in Plan Bay Area. Over 1,600 residents were reached through a variety of techniques, including meetings, festivals and door-to-door canvassing. The results of the CBO outreach have been finalized and are now available on the One Bay Area web site.

For an overview of the results go to the One Bay Area Spotlight page at <http://www.onebayarea.org/spotlight.htm> or download just the CBO overview here: http://www.onebayarea.org/pdf/cbo/CBO_Outreach_Overview.pdf. The spotlight page also includes CBO outreach broken out by county.

A second phase of outreach is scheduled for this fall and will also include targeted outreach utilizing community-based organizations in the communities of concern.

Solano County Merges Transit Agencies

Say hello to SolTrans, the Bay Area's newest public transit agency. Short for Solano County Transit, SolTrans began operations on July 1. The new agency merges the bus services of the former Vallejo Transit and Benicia Breeze transit agencies.

SolTrans is housed in the newly built Vallejo Transit Center and will soon be receiving a new fleet of hybrid-electric buses. The buses, purchased with federal grant moneys and funds from several state sources, will generate fewer emissions and save fuel costs.

For more information on SolTrans, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/8-11/soltrans.htm or visit the web site ((currently being hosted by the Solano Transportation Authority) at <http://www.sta.ca.gov/Content/10038/SolTrans.html>.

From the Executive Director's Report

The following item of interest was in the July 2011 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***Steel Fabrication Completion Ceremony — Shanghai, July 11***
Vice Chair Worth, Commissioner Dodd, Andy Fremier, and I joined representatives of Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission, our prime contractor American Bridge/Fluor, and officials of our steel supplier ZPMC in a ceremony marking the completion of major steel fabrication activities for the self-anchored suspension (SAS) element of the new Bay Bridge east span. The ship with the final four deck sections of the SAS is due to sail by the end of the month.

To read the entire Executive Director's report to the Commission, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.