



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: December 7, 2011

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – December 2011

Call for Projects for Lifeline Transportation Services

The Equity and Access Subcommittee heard a presentation from staff this past September about the upcoming third cycle of MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program, which funds programs and projects to benefit individuals in low-income communities and communities of color. The Lifeline call for projects will be conducted at the county level by the nine county congestion management agencies (CMAs). The Commission is expected to issue the Lifeline Cycle 3 Program Guidelines later this month, and the CMAs are expected to release their countywide calls for projects shortly thereafter. **Project application deadlines are determined by the individual county CMAs.** A list of county contacts for the Lifeline program is available at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/lifeline/>.

As part of the Lifeline effort, MTC will be conducting a separate regionwide call for projects to solicit one or two mobility management projects using approximately \$0.7 million in available Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funds from prior cycles of the Lifeline Program. The focus will be on low-income populations and projects that advance regional and/or subregional transportation coordination efforts and may serve as a model for other parts of the region. **Project applications are due by to MTC by 4 p.m. on February 24, 2012.**

For details about the third cycle of the Lifeline Transportation Program and the Mobility Management Call for Projects, please see December Programming and Allocations Committee Item #3a: <http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/events/agendaView.akt?p=1783>

For questions or an update, please contact Kristen Mazur with MTC's Programming and Allocations staff at 510.817.5789.

Reminder: MTC Policy Advisory Council Review

As a reminder, MTC is currently conducting an evaluation of the Policy Advisory Council, and you may have already been contacted to participate in a survey and/or a phone conversation. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey as soon as possible. The evaluation process has been extended, and results are now expected to be presented to the Legislation Committee at its January 2012 meeting.

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Plan Bay Area – January Outreach Meetings

MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will hold the next round of Plan Bay Area public workshops this coming January. At the core of the workshop discussions will be a set of scenarios that illustrate different housing/jobs distribution and transportation infrastructure investments. The scenarios have been evaluated as to how well they help the region achieve the 15 percent per-capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets, as well as the Plan Bay Area performance targets. Participants in the workshops will be asked their opinion about the scenarios based on the performance results and personal preferences.

Below is the workshop schedule:

- **San Francisco – Thursday, January 5, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
UCSF Mission Bay Conference Center, 1675 Owens Street, San Francisco, CA
- **Sonoma County – Monday, January 9, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA
- **San Mateo County – Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 5:15 p.m.**
The Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos, CA
- **Alameda County – Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
City of Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA
- **Marin County – Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA
- **Santa Clara County – Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 5:15 p.m.**
Santa Clara County Government Center, 70 West Hedding, San Jose, CA
- **Napa County – Thursday, January 19, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
Napa Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Avenue, Napa, CA
- **Contra Costa County – Monday, January 23, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
Richmond Convention Center, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA
- **Solano County – Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 5:45 p.m.**
Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA

Registration is required to attend the workshops. As an advisor, you will be automatically registered to attend the workshop in your county once registration is open. If you are unable to attend, please let MTC staff know so we may free up the space for other participants.

Caldecott Tunnel Breakthrough

Caltrans has reached a milestone with the breakthrough of the top portion of the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore. The breakthrough of the upper level of the project occurred on November 29th, and was celebrated at a gathering of the media and public officials at the west portal the next day.

The \$391 million Fourth Bore project is primarily funded (\$180 million) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009; at the time of the grant award, it was the single largest stimulus project in the nation. Additional funding came from a local transportation sales tax (Measure J) passed by Contra Costa voters in 2004; and from Regional Measure 2 bridge tolls funding distributed by MTC. The Caldecott Fourth Bore Project is a partnership between the Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, MTC, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

For a time lapse video of the breakthrough and more information, go to MTC's web site at:
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/11-11/caldecott.htm

From the Executive Director's Report

The following items of interest were in the November 2011 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***AMPO Annual Meeting — Dallas, October 25-28***
I was unable to attend the CTC meeting because of a schedule conflict with the annual meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). The trip to Dallas was worth my while, however, as I was elected President of the organization's Board of Directors effective January 2012. In that role, I will follow in the footsteps of three past AMPO presidents from MTC: former chairs Sharon Brown and Steve Kinsey and my predecessor, Larry Dahms.
- ***SANDAG Adopts First SCS — San Diego, October 28***
The governing board of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has adopted the state's first Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as required by Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg). Unfortunately, it is widely expected that this first plan adoption also will be on the receiving end of the first SCS lawsuit filed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). So stay tuned for further developments.
- ***New High Speed Rail Business Plan — Sacramento, November 1***
The California High Speed Rail Authority has issued a draft of its latest business plan that is drawing rare praise from high speed rail boosters and critics alike for its candor and comprehensiveness in outlining the many obstacles the state faces in attempting to build the first high speed rail line in the nation. The total price tag for the full project has doubled to nearly \$100 billion, and the plan describes a "blended" approach for staging the project that appears to be consistent with calls from regional leaders in both the Bay Area and southern California.
- ***Upcoming Events***
December 21 – BAHA Meeting, Oakland

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