



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Select Committee on Transit Sustainability

DATE: March 27, 2013

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W.I. 1517

RE: Transit Sustainability Project – Implementation Update

In May 2012, the Commission adopted the Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) recommendations. This memorandum summarizes implementation progress to date. Staff seeks direction from the Committee on the COA recommendations.

TSP Implementation Progress

The Commission developed an implementation plan to complement recent individual transit agency efforts to control costs, improve service and attract new riders. By establishing performance metrics and targets, investment and incentive programs, and additional focused planning related to cost, service, and institutional arrangements, the recommendations set a course towards a more sustainable transit system.

Performance Measures and Targets

For the region’s largest seven transit operators, the Commission established a 5% reduction target by FY2016-17 in at least one of the following performance measures:

- Cost Per Service Hour
- Cost Per Passenger
- Cost Per Passenger Mile

Agencies are in the process of developing and adopting strategic plans to meet the cost reduction target and are scheduled to submit the plans to MTC by the end of March 2013. Staff, in coordination with the transit operators, will evaluate the plans and provide an update to this Committee in Summer 2013.

Transit Performance Initiative Investments

The Commission established an investment and incentive strategy to improve service performance and attract new riders to the region’s transit system and the Commission has committed \$82 million to the Transit Performance Initiative (TPI) Investment Program to fund transit service improvements on major corridors as part of the OneBayArea Grant program. To date, over \$28 million has been awarded to reduce travel times and enhance the passenger experience on major corridors served by AC Transit, SFMTA, and Santa Clara VTA.

Transit Performance Initiative Incentive Program

To encourage *all* of the region's transit operators to continuously improve their service and attract more riders, the Commission further committed \$60 million from the OneBayArea Grant program to the TPI Incentive Program to reward transit agencies that achieve ridership increases and productivity improvements and will allocate these funds on the basis of performance.

The Commission distributed the initial \$15 million based on transit ridership and has assigned 85% and 15% of the remaining \$45 million to large and small operators, respectively. The reward formula for the small operators is based on 50% ridership, 25% increase in passengers, and 25% increase in passengers per hour. The reward formula for large operators will be determined by the Commission over the next several months.

Service, Institutional and Paratransit Recommendations

Coordinated Short Range Transit Plans have been completed in Solano and Sonoma counties that identify service and performance improvement strategies. In cooperation with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Sonoma County operators will use this coordinated planning document to evaluate and improve service delivery and coordination between operators. The Solano County Transportation Authority intends to use this information to continue to explore potential functional and institutional consolidation opportunities.

In Sonoma County, MTC provided funding to the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to collect customer opinion and demographic survey data to better inform service planning throughout the county and the region. Based on this model, MTC is partnering with transit agencies throughout the region to consolidate transit passenger surveying services which will provide improved and regionally consistent data to inform service improvements and create regional cost savings.

TSP recommendations related to Paratransit Services have been incorporated into MTC's update of the region's Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan, MTC Resolution 4085, slated for adoption by the Commission in March 2013.

Additional TSP implementation efforts, including further corridor and county specific service and planning coordination projects, will begin in 2013 and staff will provide updates to the Committee later this year.



Ann Flemer