



Agenda Item 9

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: November 6, 2013

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – November 2013

New Freedom Call for Projects

MTC is currently soliciting projects in the San Francisco Bay Area's large urbanized areas (UAs) 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 transportation barriers faced by individuals with disabilities, beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. As recommended in the Coordinated Plan Update, MTC is prioritizing the New Freedom Cycle 5 funds for implementing projects and activities consistent with the mobility management strategies detailed in Chapter 8 of the plan, available at www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/pths/. The available funding is \$1.8 million for the Bay Area's large urbanized areas. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local government authorities, and public transportation operators. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m., Friday, January 3, 2014.

For more information, contact Drennen Shelton at dshelton@mtc.ca.gov (510.817.5909), or go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/new_freedom.htm.

New Campaign Aims to Spark EV Converts

A new \$845,000 electric vehicle (EV) promotional campaign approved by MTC in September 2013 and spearheaded by the California Center for Sustainable Energy is intended to reduce regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by encouraging residents to experience electric vehicles first-hand. The Center for Sustainable Energy will host interactive Ride-and-Drive opportunities at workplaces and neighborhood venues around the Bay Area, where drivers will have the chance to test-drive electric vehicles and share their experience using social media, all without the sales pressure of a traditional showroom. About 6,500 drivers are predicted to participate in a series of two dozen Ride-and-Drive events from February through July, 2014.

For more information, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/10-13/ev.htm.

2012 Pavement Report Card

The pavement on the Bay Area's nearly 43,000 lane-miles of local streets and roads remains in "fair" condition, with the typical stretch of asphalt showing serious wear and likely to require rehabilitation soon. Released last month, MTC's pavement report puts the region's 2012 pavement condition index (PCI) score at 66 out of a maximum possible 100 points, as calculated on a three-year moving average basis. This marks the fourth consecutive year the region has registered an average PCI score of 66, a reading that has not varied by more than two points since 2006. MTC's Regional Streets and Roads Program later this year will recognize El Cerrito for having the most improved pavement conditions of any jurisdiction in the Bay Area, likely a result of its half-cent sales tax measure passed in 2008 which financed a very successful citywide street improvement program.

The complete 2012 Bay Area Pavement Conditions Summary — including percentages of local roadways in "excellent" or "very good" and "poor" or "failed" condition, and a listing of average PCI scores for the arterials, collector roadways and residential streets — in all Bay Area counties and cities can be found on MTC's web site at:
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/press_releases/rel624.htm.

New Truck Scales Tackle Congestion and Safety Issues

New Interstate-80 truck scales in Solano County have made a dramatic difference for truckers and commuters since they opened in July of this year. The eastbound project is in response to major congestion issues at the previous scale site and a projected increase in traffic on the main truck route in the coming years. The old scales were located at the site of convergence for I-80, Interstate-680 and Highway 12, which caused truck back-ups. The new scales are located about a half mile east of the I-80/I-680 interchange, and new "braided ramps" allow trucks to enter I-80 and 12 without crossing paths with cars or exiting vehicles.

MTC contributed \$49.5 million in bridge toll funds to the project, which amounts to more than half of the \$97.9 million price tag. The Solano Transportation Authority (STA), Caltrans and CHP were also partners in the project.

For more information on the new I-80 eastbound truck scales, go to:
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/10-13/cordelia.htm.

New Bay Area Water Trail

The Bay Area Water Trail is a growing network of launch and landing sites for kayakers, canoe paddlers, windsurfers and other non-motorized water craft on the Bay. The State Coastal Conservancy is leading development of the trail, working closely with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The Conservancy awarded ABAG a \$1 million grant in 2011 to help implement the plan and to initiate a grant program to help improve launch and landing sites. Last month, the Conservancy authorized another \$750,000 to ABAG to further implement the plan and to add to Water Trail grants.

For more information and to download a brochure on the water trail, go to:
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/10-13/water_trail.htm.

Executive Director's Report

The following items of interest were in the October 2013 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

Ventra Card Chicago Transit Authority, September 30

Steve Heminger, Denis Mulligan (GGBHTD), Ed Reiskin (SFMTA) and MTC Clipper staff had the opportunity to meet with the Chicago Transit Authority staff and Cubic staff responsible for delivering the new Ventra smart card. Ventra is Chicago's version of the Clipper card, and was recently rolled out on all CTA transit facilities. The procurement was very interesting in that it was a Design Build Finance Operate and Maintain project. Under this approach, Cubic was not paid until the system went operational roughly two years after contract execution. While in the early stages of rollout, both the Transit agency and the Contractor were pleased with the progress of the contract.

Big 4 MPO Meeting, Sacramento, October 8

Steve Heminger joined his colleagues from the four largest metropolitan planning organizations in California to compare notes on our efforts to implement our respective region's Sustainable Communities Strategies per Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg). Major topics included the use of performance metrics, opportunities to secure Cap and Trade revenues for plan implementation, and the draft AB 32 Scoping Plan developed by the California Air Resources Board and its impact on greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for future plans.

BART Service Disruption, October 18-21

As you are well aware, the second BART strike occurred over four days, concluding with a tentative agreement between BART and its labor unions. At the request of the negotiating teams, final negotiations took place at MTC's offices. Prior to and during the BART service disruption, MTC staff coordinated daily calls of the transit agencies, Caltrans, CHP and 511 to update the status of contingency services and provide regular updates to the public via 511 and the media.

To read the October 2013 Executive Director's report to the Commission in its entirety, go to
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm