



Agenda Item 7

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: December 4, 2013

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – December 2013

No More Photos for Youth Clipper® Cards

The AC Transit Board of Directors has eliminated the requirement of a photo ID for the AC Transit Youth Clipper® card. This means it is now easier for youths between the ages of five and 18 to get a Clipper® Card — and the discounts it offers — without having to go to AC Transit headquarters to apply for one. Instead, AC Transit youth riders may now apply for a Youth Clipper® card by mail, email or fax, and then receive a registered Youth Clipper® card in the mail. If they wish to obtain a Youth card the same day, they can still come to the AC Transit Customer Service Center at 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

For details on this and other Clipper® card information, go to www.clippercard.com.

Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Opens

The Caldecott Tunnel's Fourth Bore opened on November 16, 2013, a day after the ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by MTC Commissioners Amy Worth and Scott Haggerty. Other noted dignitaries at the event were U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, U.S. Congressman George Miller, California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, California Assemblymembers Nancy Skinner and Joan Buchanan, and James Ghielmetti, chair of the California Transportation Commission.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the six hexagonal medallions, which pay homage to the Art Deco medallions decorating the original 1937 bores. The designs were selected in a competition involving students from Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and all six winning artists were on hand at the event. The artists first unveiled posters depicting their designs, which celebrate the Caldecott Tunnel and its natural setting, with imagery of the sun as a recurring element. Then the crowd moved to the portal, where officials released the drapes covering the actual medallions and cut a ceremonial ribbon across the tunnel entrance.

For more information about the event and to view photos and the medallions, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/11-13/caldecott.htm.

Final Reminder: Deadline for New Freedom Call for Projects

Less than a month away, the deadline for the latest New Freedom call for projects is 4 p.m., Friday, January 3, 2014. MTC is 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.

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.

Gateway Park Project Enters Environmental Review Phase

Proposed by a consortium of nine local, regional and state agencies that includes the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), the Gateway Park Project is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the lead CEQA agency, BATA released a "Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report" on November 1, 2013, and is accepting comments on the NOP through December 6, 2013.

The proposed park, which is likely to be constructed in phases, covers about 170 acres extending from the waterfront near the Oakland touchdown of the new Bay Bridge East Span to Mandela Parkway in West Oakland. Amenities under discussion include public shoreline access, an event venue in a historic industrial building, local art installations, a children's port-themed playground and a fishing pier.

At the end of this comment period, the project team will consider public and agency input and begin preparing a draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for release later in 2014, with a final version planned for spring 2015.

To read more about the project and the Notice of Preparation, go to <http://baybridgegatewaypark.org/>.

Executive Director's Report

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

Meeting with Senator Steinberg, Sacramento, November 4

I joined my colleagues from the "Big 4" metropolitan areas in California at a meeting with Senate President pro Tem Daryl Steinberg, the author of SB 375. We briefed him on our progress in implementing the statute, including the litigation pending in San Diego and the Bay Area. We also discussed various legislative proposals that could assist the regions in funding affordable housing construction and other infrastructure improvements necessary for our Sustainable Communities Strategy to be effective. While in Sacramento, we also met with Transportation Secretary Brian Kelly about several pending transportation reform and revenue issues that are likely to be considered during the 2014 legislative session.

Biketopia, Oakland, November 8

Chair Worth, Andy Fremier and I attended this annual event sponsored by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition to receive a joint award with Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission for opening the bicycle/pedestrian path on the new east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. In recent weeks, the new path has averaged approximately 400 weekday users and about 1,000 users on the weekend. The ratio of users is about 2 pedestrians for every 1 biker.

Court Rejects Challenge to Cap & Trade, Sacramento, November 14

A Sacramento Superior Court judge has rejected lawsuits filed by the California Chamber of Commerce and Pacific Legal Foundation alleging that the cap & trade carbon auctions conducted by the state in recent months were unconstitutional. Both losing parties pledged to appeal the decisions. As you recall, the conservative Pacific Legal Foundation is connected to two of the legal challenges that have been filed against Plan Bay Area.

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