

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

March 5, 2014

Item Number 4c

Resolution No. 4135

Subject: New Freedom Program – Cycle 5 Program of Projects

Background: The Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) New Freedom Program (Section 5317) 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.

Funds are apportioned by formula to large urbanized areas (UAs), small UAs, and rural areas based on the population of persons with disabilities in each area. MTC, as the designated recipient of the Bay Area’s large UA funds, is responsible for conducting a competitive selection process for those funds. Caltrans, the designated recipient for the state’s small UA and rural area funds, conducts a separate statewide call for projects for those funds.

Project Selection Process

In September 2013, MTC adopted Resolution No. 4116, which set forth guidelines for the competitive selection of Cycle 5 large UA projects. The funding available this cycle is \$2 million. This amount includes the FY2012 apportionments for the Bay Area’s five large UAs (Antioch, Concord, San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa). MTC issued a call for projects in October 2013 and received 15 applications totaling \$3.1 million in requests.

Following an initial eligibility screening by MTC staff, eligible projects were evaluated by a panel consisting of one member of the MTC Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee, one representative from the disabled community, a transit program manager from a Congestion Management Agency (CMA) in a small UA, and two MTC staff. Applications were scored based on the following criteria: (1) need and benefits; (2) coordination, partnership, and outreach; and (3) project readiness. Applicants were asked to cite—and the evaluation panel took into consideration—the relevant gaps, solutions, and/or strategies from the Commission’s adopted Coordinated Public Transit—Human Services Transportation Plan Update for the San Francisco Bay Area (“Coordinated Plan”) that each project was intended to address. This cycle, there was an increased emphasis on mobility management and coordination. Additional points were awarded to projects that included specific coordination activities that resulted in better utilization of and access to resources.

Recommended Program of Projects

Attachment 1 lists the applications from highest to lowest score, and shows the recommended grant amount. The proposed program of projects includes funding for twelve projects in six of the nine Bay Area counties. There were two applications from San Francisco, both with low scoring projects that are not recommended for funding. There are no large UAs in Solano and Napa counties, and sponsors will be eligible to seek New Freedom funds through the Caltrans Small UA and rural process.

Recommended grant amounts were determined based on the following factors:

- A project's score relative to other projects within the same UA;
- The scalability of a project, if competing in UAs where funding is oversubscribed; and
- The objective of using as much of the available funds as possible.

In some cases, the amount of funding recommended is less than what was requested. Project sponsors have been consulted on any scope/budget modifications due to eligibility or reduced funding recommendations.

The increased emphasis on mobility management during this call for projects resulted in fewer applications and more coordinated projects; seven of the twelve applications recommended for funding are mobility management projects. There are still several discrete operations projects serving Contra Costa County. While the evaluation panel's top priority was to fund mobility management efforts, the panel felt it important to continue services in Contra Costa County. Based on the work underway in that county, it is likely that in the long term, these projects will continue under the umbrella of a coordinated mobility management structure.

Following Commission approval, MTC will program the projects into the 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). MTC will submit a grant application to FTA to secure the New Freedom funding for the subrecipients listed in Attachment A, and will enter into agreements with the subrecipients upon FTA grant approval. Direct recipients listed in Attachment A will submit their own grants to FTA, serve as direct recipients of the funds, and carry out the terms of their grants directly. MTC reserves the right to reprogram funds if direct recipients fail to obligate the funds by July 31, 2014.

Issues:

The urbanized area funding constraints resulted in some instances where lower-scoring projects are recommended for funding even when a higher scoring project is not fully funded. This is a result of conflicting funding recommendations and projects scores from the evaluation panel in a few cases. Staff will work with panels in the future to help clarify and resolve these issues.

Recommendation:

Refer Resolution No. 4135 to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Recommended Projects in Large Urbanized Areas
MTC Resolution No. 4135

**Attachment 1
 New Freedom Program – Cycle 5
 Recommended Projects in Large Urbanized Areas**

Rank	Sponsor	Project Name	Total Cost	Federal Amount Requested	Average Score	Recommended Grant Amount
1	Outreach & Escort, Inc.	Above & Beyond through Coordination (ABC) Project	\$ 1,060,582	\$ 446,731	99	\$ 446,731
1	Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging	Sonoma Access Coordinated Transportation Services (SACTS)	\$ 123,312	\$ 89,572	99	\$ 89,572
3	County Connection (CCCTA)	Contra Costa Mobility Management Program Implementation	\$ 187,500	\$ 150,000	98	\$ 100,000
4	AC Transit	Marketing Mobility Management Through 211	\$ 300,000	\$ 240,000	97	\$ 240,000
4	Livermore-Amador Valley Transportation Authority (LAVTA)	LAVTA Parataxi Project 2014	\$ 33,000	\$ 16,500	97	\$ 16,500
6	Marin Transit	Expanded Coordination of Transportation Resources & Services to Isolated Populations	\$ 289,567	\$ 160,436	96	\$ 160,436
7	Center for Independent Living	Mobility Matters: A Mobility Management Hub Project	\$ 485,917	\$ 358,745	95	\$ 358,745
8	Rehabilitation Services of Northern California	Mt. Diablo Mobilizer	\$ 65,444	\$ 32,722	92	\$ 32,722
9	Lamorinda Spirit Van Program, City of Lamorinda	Lamorinda Spirit Van Program for Fragile Elderly and Disabled Seniors	\$ 270,382	\$ 135,191	90	\$ 51,974
10	Senior Helpline Services	Rides for Seniors and Transportation Information & Referrals	\$ 392,906	\$ 214,692	88	\$ 166,055
11	SamTrans	Peninsula Rides Mobility Management Activities	\$ 379,857	\$ 198,706	71	\$ 102,746
12	City of Richmond	R-Transit \$5 Same Day 24/7 Transportation Service	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	69	\$ 37,500
13	LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired	SFO Mobility Management for the Blind (SFOMMB)	\$ 252,525	\$ 202,020	59	\$ -
14	SFMTA	Transit Wayfinding Toolkit for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 550,000	\$ 440,000	54	\$ -
15	City of Richmond	ITS: Cloud Software Support & Ext. Modules Project	\$ 388,874	\$ 311,099	49	\$ -

Total		Total	
Requested	\$ 3,146,414	Recommended	\$ 1,802,981

Total Available \$ 1,802,981

Date: March 26, 2014
W.I.: 1518
Referred by: PAC

ABSTRACT
Resolution No. 4135

This resolution adopts the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Freedom (Section 5317) Cycle 5 Program of Projects for the large urbanized areas of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The following attachment is provided with this resolution:

Attachment A New Freedom Cycle 5 Program of Projects for Large Urbanized Areas

Further discussion of this action is contained in the Programming and Allocations Committee Summary sheet dated March 5, 2014.

Date: March 26, 2014
W.I.: 1518
Referred by: PAC

Re: New Freedom Cycle 5 Program of Projects for Large Urbanized Areas

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION No. 4135

WHEREAS, the United States Code Title 49 Section 5317 (49 U.S.C. 5317) authorizes and sets forth the provisions for the New Freedom Program, which makes grants to recipients for addressing the transportation needs of disabled persons through the provision of new services and facility improvements that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, 49 U.S.C. 5317(c) apportions New Freedom funds by formula to large urbanized areas, small urbanized areas, and non-urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, 49 U.S.C. 5317(d) requires designated recipients of New Freedom funds to conduct a competitive process to award grants to subrecipients; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 66500 et seq., the Metropolitan Transportation Commission ("MTC") is the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, MTC is the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, consistent with 49 U.S.C. 5307(a)(2), MTC is the designated recipient of New Freedom Program funding apportionments for large urbanized areas in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, as the designated recipient, MTC has conducted a competitive selection process and developed for submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) a program of projects (POP) for the San Francisco Bay Area's large urbanized area New Freedom Program FY2012 apportionments, attached hereto as Attachment A, and incorporated herein as though set forth at length; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted Resolution No. 4116, which sets forth MTC's Program Guidelines for Cycle 5 of the of the New Freedom Program; and

WHEREAS, MTC conducted the competitive selection processes for the New Freedom large urbanized area apportionment in accordance with those guidelines; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that MTC adopts the New Freedom Cycle 5 Program of Projects for large urbanized areas as listed in Attachment A; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MTC will submit to FTA a grant application to secure the New Freedom funding for those agencies listed as subrecipients in Attachment A who are not able to submit a grant application to FTA themselves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MTC will enter into agreements with those agencies listed as subrecipients in Attachment A to ensure their compliance with all applicable Federal requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of MTC is authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to FTA, and such agencies as may be appropriate.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Amy Rein Worth, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at the regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California, on March 26, 2014.

Date: March 26, 2014
W.I.: 1518
Referred by: PAC

Attachment A
MTC Resolution No. 4135
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**NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM - CYCLE 5
PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR LARGE URBANIZED AREAS**

No.	Project Sponsor	Project		Federal New Freedom Recommended Share
		Name	Description	
MTC Subrecipients				
1	Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging	Sonoma Access Coordinated Transportation Services (SACTS)	This initiative serves to enhance countywide coordinated transportation services and mobility management. SACTS includes the Sonoma Access One Call/One Click transportation resource center, engaging the community partner consortium, conducting outreach, education, and coordinating activities to enhance and create innovative transportation options.	89,572
2	Outreach & Escort, Inc.	Above & Beyond through Coordination (ABC) Project	Provides one call/one click access to a range of transportation options.	446,731
3	Center for Independent Living	Mobility Matters: A Mobility Management Hub Project	Mobility Management project to coordinate a family of services at the consumer level to increase the use of transit related services by people with disabilities. The project will coordinated travel training, adaptive technology consultations; assistance with completing regional transit card applications; information and referral; mobility device training; mobility management partners coordination; openstreetmap.org for Alameda County; education activities; safety workshops; travel training smartphone app; trip planning; wheelchair securement.	358,745
4	City of Richmond	R-Transit \$5 Same Day 24/7 Transportation Service	Continues R-Transit pilot \$5 same day 24/7 transportation service with wheelchair accessible vehicles for residents with disabilities and seniors living in specified areas of western Contra Costa County.	37,500
5	Senior Helpline Services	Rides for Seniors and Transportation Information & Referrals	SHS provides free one-on-one, escorted, door-through-door rides for medical care and basic necessities to otherwise homebound seniors in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, as well as transportation information and referral services.	166,055
6	Lamorinda Spirit Van Program, City of Lamorinda	Lamorinda Spirit Van Program for Fragile Elderly and Disabled Seniors	The Lamorinda Spirit Van Program provides seniors, age 60 and up (primarily serving ages 80 to 100), with transportation to essential errands including: medical/personal appointments, shopping, the nutrition program, and special events.	51,974

NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM - CYCLE 5
PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR LARGE URBANIZED AREAS
(continued)

No.	Project Sponsor	Project		Federal New Freedom Recommended Share
		Name	Description	
MTC Subrecipients				
7	Rehabilitation Services of Northern California	Mt. Diablo Mobilizer	The Mt. Diablo Mobilizer provides door-through-door transportation to health and social services for frail low-income seniors and others with disabilities, as well as trips to grocery shopping and other basic needs.	32,722
8	MTC	Program Administration/ Mobility Management Roadmap Study	MTC's setaside for program administration and providing technical assistance. The Roadmap Study will document next steps toward implementation of the mobility management and coordination strategies recommended in the Coordinated Public Transit— Human Services Transportation Plan Update for the Bay Area.	200,332
Subtotal – MTC Subrecipients				<i>\$1,383,631</i>

NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM - CYCLE 5
PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR LARGE URBANIZED AREAS
(continued)

No.	Project Sponsor	Project		Federal New Freedom Recommended Share
		Name	Description	
Direct Recipients				
9	County Connection (CCCTA)	Contra Costa Mobility Management Program Implementation	Implement Phase II and III of the recommendations listed in the Contra Costa County Mobility Management Plan. This includes the formation of a mobility management oversight board, the retention of a mobility manager, and beginning coordination with existing agencies within the County	100,000
10	SamTrans	Peninsula Rides Mobility Management Activities	Expansion and enhancement of mobility management activities of the Senior Mobility Initiative, including MM website; support for personalized Information & Referral; expanding volunteer driver program; establishing a Veterans Mobility Corps; updating the mobility guide	102,746
11	AC Transit	Marketing Mobility Management Through 211	Market and publicize the Alameda County 211 website and toll free phone service, which houses a database of paratransit information in Alameda County. Coordinated mobility management will be provided by 211 staff, including detailed and targeted transportation recommendations for seniors and the disabled.	240,000
12	Marin Transit	Expanded Coordination of Transportation Resources & Services to Isolated Populations	Expanded Coordination of Transportation Resources: creates and evaluates plans to encourage non-profit transportation providers to coordinate services and improves taxi service. Services to Isolated Populations: expands group and individual travel training programs, and funds a pilot "traditional model" volunteer driver program to provide escorted transportation.	160,436
13	Livermore-Amador Valley Transportation Authority (LAVTA)	LAVTA Parataxi Project 2014	A reimbursement based system, offering a taxicab ride as a transportation alternative to traditional paratransit.	16,500
Subtotal - Direct Recipients				\$619,682
Total				\$2,003,313