



Agenda Item 8

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: March 5, 2014

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – March 2014

Regional Guidelines for the Active Transportation Program

MTC is preparing regional guidelines for its portion of funds from the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The ATP, approved by the state Legislature in 2013, restructured bicycle and pedestrian oriented funding programs into one consolidated program in order to promote alternative modes of transportation. State guidelines for the distribution of funding will be adopted in March 2014 by the California Transportation Commission. MTC has proposed three changes to the statewide guidelines for the administration of the regional ATP competition:

- Add additional evaluation criteria for previously adopted regional priorities, such as bike share expansion, Bay Trail and Regional Bike Network build-out, and multi-jurisdictional projects such as the Ohlone Greenway and Napa Vine Trail.
- Use MTC's Communities of Concern definition to meet the 25% requirement for projects benefiting "Disadvantaged Communities," rather than other measures prescribed by CTC (such as Cal-Enviro-Screen and percent of subsidized school lunches).
- Waive local match for construction if pre-construction phases are funded entirely with non-federal and non-ATP funds. Other match and minimum project size requirements remain the same as the Statewide Competitive ATP.

The initial statewide ATP competition will have \$180 million. The initial regional ATP competition will have \$30 million. The regional funding competition also will be guided by guidelines MTC expects to present to various working groups in March, and to seek Programming & Allocation Committee and MTC approval in April. MTC staff will be available at the March Policy Advisory Committee meeting to answer any questions.

For more information on the statewide program, visit <http://www.catc.ca.gov/programs/ATP.htm>.

Nominations Sought for 2014 MTC Transportation Awards

Every other year, MTC honors organizations and individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the way people get around in the San Francisco Bay Area. MTC encourages you to recommend individuals, projects or organizations you know that may have developed new and better ways to help people get where they're going each day. Examples of the types of efforts MTC is seeking to honor include:

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- innovative activities that promote efficient use of the transportation network;
- significant efforts to inform and educate the public about transportation issues;
- a bus or train operator, or other transportation employee, who has gone above the call of duty;
- efforts to boost smart growth;
- successful efforts to improve transit service and encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone.

We are also looking for nominations for several special awards that are part of MTC's program.

- **The Miriam Gholikely Award** recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in the field of community service, volunteerism, advocacy, leadership or minority affairs.
- **The Doris W. Kahn Accessible Transportation Award** honors a person or organization whose efforts have resulted in significant improvement in transportation services for the elderly or persons with disabilities.
- **The Greta Ericson Distinguished Service Award** recognizes long-term, quality leadership in the transportation profession.
- **The David Tannehill Special Employee Award** is intended for a transportation employee who goes beyond the call of duty.

The deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2014**. A jury of MTC Commissioners, staff and the general public will select the winners. A postcard with more information will be available at your meeting; an online nomination form can be found at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/awards/. To obtain a paper copy of the nomination form, call the MTC Information Office at 510.817.5757.

Annual Report: MTC Year in Review 2013

For the first time MTC's annual report is completely paperless, and can be found on the MTC web site at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/2013/>. In addition to the report's standard list of allocations, financial report and other financial highlights, the online version has a stunning pictorial showcasing the year visually. Even if you don't have time to read the report in its entirety, you should at least spend a few moments looking at the photos.

Executive Director's Report

The following items were in the February 2014 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

West Span Bay Bridge Pathway Brainstorming Session, San Francisco, January 28

Caltrans and the Bay Area Toll Authority co-sponsored a brainstorming session with a group of interested bridge engineers and bike/pedestrian path advocates on whether we could conceptualize a lower cost option for continuing the East Span bike/pedestrian path all the way to San Francisco once it reaches its midway point at Yerba Buena Island in 2015. The latest estimate for the West Span Pathway is approximately \$600 million, and that number reflects only a modest level of engineering work to date. There is no identified funding source for a project of such magnitude.

Independent Caltrans Review Released, Sacramento, January 30

California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly released the external review of Caltrans that he ordered last year from the State Smart Transportation Initiative (SSTI) organization. The SSTI report calls for broad reforms in the operation of Caltrans, ranging from its mission statement to its management structure. A copy of the news release accompanying the report can be found with the MTC Executive Director's Report at the web link shown below.

To read the February 2014 Executive Director's report to the Commission in its entirety, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.