



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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April 6, 2006

Mr. Paul Branson, Chair
MTC Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Contra Costa County Health and Human Services
40 Douglas Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

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San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

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Bay Area Toll Authority

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Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Dear Mr. Branson,

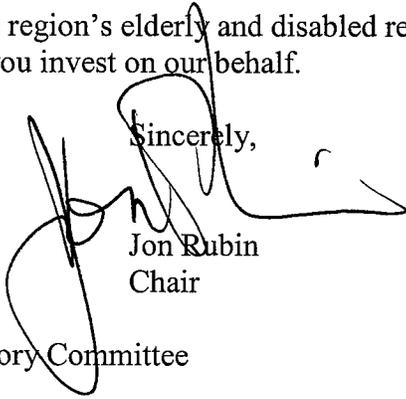
Thank you for writing on behalf of MTC's Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee to express concern with implementation of MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program. In particular, you raise a concern about the geographic-based approach to developing project ideas for the Lifeline funding program. In an effort to concentrate our planning resources on identifying the transportation needs in some of the region's most impoverished communities, MTC designed its Community-based Transportation Planning Program to focus on these areas. This collaborative process incorporates the perspectives of the residents of these communities, as well as agencies that serve them, and includes input on transportation needs from the low-income senior and disabled populations within the communities.

However, your point is well taken that low-income seniors and people with disabilities are not necessarily clustered in a particular geographic area. Please know that while solutions emerging from community-based transportation plans are eligible for Lifeline funding, they are not the only projects to be considered. In fact, projects that will benefit low-income seniors and people with disabilities are eligible, and the Lifeline Transportation Program Guidelines MTC submitted to county congestion management agencies to serve as a blueprint for implementing the program specifically point this out.

I encourage you, as advocates in the region's senior and disabled community, to closely follow developments in your counties and encourage the CMAs to consider the needs of low-income seniors and people with disabilities as they select projects for Lifeline funding. If you are aware of any groups or individuals that would like to stay informed as the county Lifeline Transportation programs move forward, please provide all contact information to your EDAC staff liaison, Ellen Griffin, so that she can pass the information on to the appropriate CMA or other designed county administrating agency.

Thank you for continuing to be a voice for the region's elderly and disabled residents in the transportation arena. We appreciate the time you invest on our behalf.

Sincerely,


Jon Rubin
Chair

cc: Members, Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Commissioners