

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

June 14, 2006

Item Number 3d

Resolution No. 3761, Revised

- Subject:** FY 2006-07 State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary Program.
- Background:** This action revises the STA Program to program \$5.0 million in new STA funds to TransLink[®]. The funds will cover MTC's share of fixed and variable operating costs in connection with TransLink[®] in FY 06/07. MTC was originally planning on using RM2 operating funds to pay for TransLink[®] operations. However, due to the legislated three-year (non-consecutive) time limit on spending RM2 operating available to TransLink[®], staff has determined that it is prudent to postpone initiating the second year of using RM2 operating funds until significantly more of the program costs are incurred. This is anticipated once TransLink[®] is more widely deployed and variable operating costs increase. This approach should assure complete expenditure of TransLink[®]'s \$20.0 million in RM2 operating funds before expiration.
- Issues:** None
- Recommendation:** Refer MTC Resolution No. 3761, Revised to the Commission for approval.
- Attachments:** MTC Resolution No. 3761, Revised

Date: May 24, 2006
W.I.: 1152
Referred by: PAC
Revised: 06/28/06-C

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 3761, Revised

This resolution establishes a one-year program for Fiscal Year 2006-07 for MTC's State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary funds.

This resolution was revised on June 28, 2006 to amend the STA program.

Further discussion of this program is contained in the Programming & Allocations Committee Summary Sheet dated June 14, 2006 and the Programming and Allocations Committee Summary Sheet dated May 10, 2006.

Date: May 24, 2006
W.I.: 1152
Referred by: PAC
Revised: 06/28/06-C

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**STA Regional Discretionary Program
FY 2006-07**

Funding Availability	Amount
FY 2006-07 STA Fund Estimate	\$27,564,736

Project Name	Claimant	Amount
TransLink [®] *	MTC	\$5,835,000
TransLink [®]	GGT	\$82,000
TransLink [®]	TBD/Various Operators	\$1,200,000
Regional Coordination Support	MTC	\$1,601,000
Regional Transit Information System	MTC	\$497,000
Regional Transportation Marketing	MTC	\$39,000
Regional Operations Support Contingency	MTC	\$483,000
Regional Paratransit Program	MTC	\$75,000
Transit Coordination Project Audits	MTC	\$200,000
Transit Capital Inventory/Asset Tool	MTC	\$150,000
Regional Transit Demographic Study	MTC	\$100,000
Facilitation and General Planning Studies	TBD	\$150,000
Legislative Consultant	MTC	\$197,000
Lifeline Transportation Program	TBD/Various Operators	\$6,570,000
Total		\$17,179,000

STA Balance Estimate	\$10,385,736
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* Program was revised on June 28, 2006 to program an additional \$5,000,000 in STA funds for TransLink[®] operations in FY 2006/07.

Date: May 24, 2006
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STA Regional Discretionary Program Summary FY 2006-07

STA Regional Discretionary Funds have historically supported some of MTC's regional operations projects as well as other planning and operational efforts to improve coordination of, and access to, transit services in the Bay Area. Many of these projects have been identified in the Commission's SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan. Specific SB 1474 plan goals include: 1) Improve service to the transit customer, 2) Increase system efficiency through coordination of specific functions and 3) Develop sub-regional coordination agreements between connecting agencies.

The FY 2006-07 STA Regional Discretionary Program totals \$17,179,000 and generally focuses on delivering TransLink[®], the Regional Transit Information System (RTIS) and Lifeline services consistent with the Commission's Transportation 2030 Plan. More detail about specific projects follows.

TransLink[®]

Programmed to MTC: \$5,835,000

Programmed to Golden Gate Transit: \$82,000

Programmed to transit operators yet to be determined: \$1,200,000

MTC is the lead agency for the regional procurement and implementation of the TransLink[®] smart card fare payment system. The TransLink[®] procurement includes a limited demonstration, evaluation, regional implementation and on-going program coordination with the region's transit agencies.

The demonstration (Phase 1) concluded in August 2002. A subsequent evaluation found TransLink[®] to be a success technologically and in terms of customer satisfaction. Since the demonstration, all six charter agencies' policy boards have authorized participation in the regional implementation of TransLink[®] and the TransLink[®] Consortium was created to oversee TransLink[®] implementation. MTC issued Phase 2 Notice to Proceed for regional implementation in November 2003. Since then, the TransLink[®] Consortium, TransLink[®] Contractor and MTC have continued to make progress on project-related policy, technical, schedule and financial matters. AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit will be the first two transit operators to launch the system. They expect to launch at the end of this fiscal year or early next year.

In FY 2006-07, \$5,000,000 in STA funds will cover MTC's share of fixed and variable operating costs associated with the TransLink[®] project. An additional \$835,000 in STA funds will serve as

local match to federal CMAQ funds programmed to TransLink[®]. These funds will cover a portion of the capital costs to design, build and maintain the TransLink[®] system. Also, \$1.2 million in STA funds will be programmed for transit operators as part of a fund swap. Transit operators will give MTC \$1.2 million in RM2 operating funds to offset the loss of STA funds that would have otherwise been spent on TransLink[®] operations. The fund swap will allow transit operators to pay for important capital projects related to TransLink[®] implementation. A similar \$1.5 million fund swap was approved by the Commission in the FY 2005-06 STA program. While programmed, these STA funds will not be claimed by transit operators by June 30, 2006. As a result, MTC will need to reprogram these funds for transit operators in the future. Finally, \$82,000 will be programmed to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transit District. Of this amount, \$7,000 covers grant administration services for a portion of TransLink[®] federal funds, and \$75,000 is for staff training in preparation for TransLink[®] deployment.

Regional Coordination Support

Programmed to MTC: \$1,601,000

As in past years, FY 2006-07 STA funds will support a portion of MTC staff costs related to the TransLink[®] and Regional Transit Information System projects. Both of these projects are important transit coordination efforts under the SB 1474 Transit Coordination and Implementation Plan. This staffing need is in response to the high visibility of these projects and the need for continuous coordination with transit agencies to assure successful implementation.

Regional Transit Information System

Programmed to MTC: \$497,000

In FY 2006-07, STA funds will serve as local match to federal STP and CMAQ funds for the Regional Transit Information System (RTIS). The RTIS is operated by MTC to collect, maintain, update and distribute region-wide transit service information for the benefit of the traveling public and MTC's transit partners. The three major components of the RTIS are:

- Regional transit trip planning system – The public can plan transit itineraries any time of the day or night using the internet-based TakeTransitSM Trip Planner. Transit agency call center staff also has access to the trip planner for assisting customers with trip planning.
- 511 Transit Website – The 511 Transit Website contains schedule, route, fare and map information for all transit agencies in the Bay Area as well as the TakeTransitSM Trip Planner. Access to the 511 Transit Website is provided through MTC's traveler information portal (www.511.org) where traffic, ridesharing and bicycle information is also available.
- Regional Transit Database (RTD) – The RTD is the central repository and data management system for comprehensive regional transit data, and is the repository for information provided via the 511 Transit Website and TakeTransitSM Trip Planner.

Aside from ongoing responsibilities to maintain and update the transit data needed for regional transit trip planning, MTC will begin efforts to replace the existing Transtar trip planning application in FY 2006-07. The existing application is written in an outdated programming language that is expensive to support and not designed for the high demands currently placed on the system. MTC will also continue expansion of an XML-based process it recently developed

to automate the data exchange from the many large transit providers included in the RTIS. Finally, MTC will initiate some enhancements to transit information provided through 511 such as a personalized My511SM service.

Regional Transportation Marketing

Programmed to MTC: \$39,000

Marketing funds will be used to provide marketing, market research and support services for the 511 Traveler Information and TransLink[®] Programs, as well as to address other ad-hoc transit marketing needs. Consistent with the findings of the 511 Strategic Plan, the program will maintain its focus on increasing and sustaining usage of the 511 phone number and website (511.org) as well as developing a better understanding of how customers use the 511 system. As TransLink[®] is deployed on individual transit agencies in FY 2006-07, the program will promote the TransLink[®] card to transit riders to increase market share of TransLink[®] compared to other fare media. STA funds will serve as local match to federal CMAQ funds for Regional Transportation Marketing.

Regional Operations Support Contingency

Programmed to MTC: \$483,000

These STA funds would be used in the event of unforeseen project needs or operating shortfalls with respect to MTC's regional operations projects such as TransLink[®] or the Regional Transit Information System. Unspent contingency funds will either be returned to the STA program at the end of FY 2006-07 for future reallocation, or retained (in which case they will offset next year's contingency request).

Regional Paratransit Program

Programmed to MTC: \$75,000

In FY 2006-07, \$75,000 in STA funds will support a 'lead agency' for the Regional Paratransit Program. This approach is consistent with the goals of the Transit Coordination and Implementation Plan, which endorses the concept of reimbursement for services provided by a Lead Agency on behalf of other operators. The lead agency is the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA). CCCTA will coordinate paratransit operational activities such as:

- Oversight of the Paratransit Eligibility Program and Regional Eligibility Database, and delivery of the Paratransit Technical Assistance Program through a consultant; and
- Liaison between the PTCC Accessibility Committee and MTC, including reporting on the status of activities and preparing an annual budget for services rendered.

Each month, CCCTA will request reimbursement from MTC for a one-twelfth share of Regional Paratransit Program funds and provide a progress report summarizing work performed.

Transit Coordination Project Audits

Programmed to MTC: \$200,000

MTC will contract with an audit firm to conduct contract closeout audits, contract compliance audits, and other agreed upon procedure type audits for its transit-related projects. There may also be contracts that require an audit before retention is released.

Transit Capital Inventory/Asset Tool

Programmed to MTC: \$150,000

STA funds will serve as partial local match to \$1 million in FTA Section 5307 funds to improve the region's transit capital inventory. The draft project scope includes:

- Assess current transit properties' practices for maintaining transit capital inventory data, and establish a regional standard for maintaining and storing the data;
- Assist transit operators to comply with the regional standard through procurement of asset management software, consultant assistance, or other technical expertise;
- Develop an internet interface for submitting transit capital data to MTC so that it can be used for various modeling tools, including Finance Plan; and
- Investigate alternative program and planning modeling tools.

MTC staff is working with the Transit Finance Working Group on this project.

Regional Transit Demographic Study

Programmed to MTC: \$100,000

To address gaps in availability of consistent rider socio-demographic data, STA funds will be used to conduct a demographic survey of the region's transit passengers in FY 2006-07.

Approximately 15,000 of the region's transit passengers will be surveyed in order to collect information about passengers' age, income, gender and ethnicity. MTC staff is working with transit operators to add some additional questions to the survey as well.

Facilitation and General Planning Studies

Programmed to claimants yet to be determined: \$150,000

These funds will allow MTC to respond to regional or subregional planning needs or requests as they arise throughout FY 2006-07. For example, a study may be completed that recommends additional follow-up, a partnership opportunity may arise that benefits MTC's regional coordination objectives or a particularly difficult regional issue may emerge that requires consulting assistance to forge consensus.

Legislative Consultant

Programmed to MTC: \$197,000

STA funds will be used for MTC's contract for legislative consultant work in Washington, D.C. The legislative consultant performs important advocacy and reconnaissance services related to transit on behalf of the region.

Lifeline Transportation

Programmed to claimants yet to be determined: \$6,570,000

As the successor to the Low-Income Flexible Transportation (LIFT) Program, MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program seeks to improve the mobility of low-income individuals. In FY 2006-07, staff proposes to program \$6.6 million for various Lifeline service and planning activities. This actually represents a reprogramming of \$5.6 million in STA funds programmed in FY 2005-06 (which will not be allocated by June 30, 2006) and an additional \$1 million in STA funds for FY 2006-07 consistent with MTC's earlier funding commitment to the LIFT Program.

Under agreement with MTC, individual county Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) have assumed responsibility for awarding Lifeline funds. Subject to program guidelines, each CMA will issue a 'call for projects' in the spring of 2006 and recommend Lifeline funding priorities in summer 2006. The Commission will be briefed on the results of the project selection process, and a request to the Commission to allocate STA funds to particular Lifeline project sponsors will be made in fall 2006.