



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Programming and Allocations Committee

DATE: December 13, 2006

FR: Executive Director

RE: MTC Policies and Procedures for 2006 RTIP Augmentation

MTC is responsible for developing the region's policies, procedures and project selection criteria for funding in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and for submitting the proposed projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for adoption into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Resolution No. 3790 establishes MTC's policies, procedures, project selection criteria, schedule and budget for the 2006 RTIP Augmentation, due to the CTC by April 2, 2007, and establishes the process for STIP amendment and extension requests.

2006 STIP Augmentation Outlook

On November 7, 2006, California voters approved the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1B). This bond authorized \$2 billion in general obligation bond proceeds to be available for projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), to augment funds otherwise available for the STIP from other sources. Under the Bond Act, the funds shall be deposited in the newly created Transportation Facilities Account (TFA) and shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, in the same manner as other STIP funds.

The STIP Augmentation will bring an estimated \$190 million in new highway capacity to the nine-county MTC-region. Additionally, higher Public Transportation Account (PTA) revenues will allow MTC-region counties to program an additional \$107 million in PTA funds. The numbers for each county from the draft Fund Estimate, released by CTC on November 15, 2006, is included in Attachment B, subattachment C.

In order to meet the April 2, 2007 submittal deadline to CTC, the Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) must submit their draft project nominations to MTC by February 1, 2007, and their final project nomination packages to MTC by February 28, 2007. PAC will review the draft project listing on February 14, 2007, and the final project listing on March 7, 2007. The Commission is scheduled to adopt the final 2006 RTIP Augmentation on March 28, 2007.

Proposed 2006 RTIP Augmentation Policies and Procedures

The attached guidance for the 2006 RTIP Augmentation is similar to MTC's policy for the previous RTIP programming cycles. The 2006 augmentation guidance has been updated to reflect revisions to the CTC STIP guidelines. Significant changes to the MTC Guidance are outlined below.

- **Corridor Mobility Infrastructure Account**
Proposition 1B, approved by voters on November 7, 2006, establishes the Corridor Mobility Infrastructure Account (CMIA) to fund critical projects aimed at improving corridor mobility and decreasing congestion statewide. MTC encourages CMAs to consider CMIA project corridors in the mix of investment options for RTIP Augmentation funding, in order to maximize the transportation benefits in these corridors. For a more detailed discussion of the CMIA program and projects, please refer to item 4.b, Release of the Draft Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Program of Projects, in this agenda.
- **State-Only Funding**
Since the augmentation funds for the STIP come from funds generated by state bonds, all new funding in the STIP will be state-only funding. It will no longer be necessary to request state-only funds when submitting project nominations for RTIP Augmentation funding. However, project sponsors should note that this state-only funding policy may change, though unlikely, at a later date, and should be prepared to federalize these projects if necessary.
- **Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM)**
Passage of Assembly Bill 2538 (Wolk, 2006) allows all counties to program up to 5% of their county share to Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) purposes in the STIP. Since the MTC region previously was limited to a 1% limit, this change allows for a considerable increase in PPM funding available for programming.
- **RTIP Performance Measures**
The CTC continues to require performance measures as part of the RTIP and ITIP review process for the 2006 RTIP Augmentation. According to the STIP guidelines, a regional, system-level performance report must be submitted along with the RTIP Augmentation submission. MTC staff will compile this report, focusing on applying the measures at the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) level. In addition, project-level performance measure data will be reviewed for new projects greater than \$50 million or 50% of a county's available share. An example of the analysis for reference is included in Attachment E: 2006 RTIP Augmentation Project Application. The CMAs will submit the project-level performance measures to MTC for applicable projects.

- **Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funds**

The 2006 RTIP Augmentation does not include any additional federal TE programming capacity. However, MTC and the CTC will consider programming or amending existing TE unprogrammed capacity or projects during the 2006 STIP Augmentation process.

Updated STIP Amendment / Extension Rules and Procedures

Project sponsors are currently required to follow the STIP Amendment / Extension Rules and Procedures process in addition to any procedures imposed by the CTC, Caltrans or the CMAs, for all STIP amendment and extension requests. These procedures have been updated to require the project sponsor (or, in limited cases, the CMA) to be present at the CTC meeting whenever their extension request is being considered. This will ensure that all questions and concerns that CTC staff or the Commissioners may have are addressed, and funding is not lost to the region. Additionally, all project sponsors requesting an extension must also submit a listing of all deadlines and statuses for allocated STIP projects, as well as for federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) or Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funded projects. This is to ensure project sponsors are aware of the other deadlines facing other projects, and so that sponsors will work to meet those deadlines.

Recommendation

MTC staff recommends that the Programming and Allocations Committee forward Resolution No. 3790 to the Commission for approval, and authorize a call for projects.

Steve Heminger

SH:KK

Attachments:

Attachment A	MTC Resolution No. 3790
Attachment B	2006 RTIP Augmentation Policies, Procedures and Project Selection Criteria (with attachments)
Attachment C	Procedures for STIP Amendments and Extensions

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

December 13, 2006

Item Number 4a

Resolution No. 3790

- Subject:** Policies, Procedures and Project Selection Criteria for the 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Augmentation - MTC Resolution No. 3790
- Background:** MTC is responsible for developing the region's funding priorities for the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and for submitting the proposed projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for adoption into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). On November 7, 2006, voters approved Proposition 1B, which authorizes \$2 billion in augmented funds for the STIP. Resolution No. 3790 would establish MTC's policies, procedures, criteria, schedule and budget for the 2006 RTIP Augmentation, due to the CTC by April 2, 2007.
- The attached guidance for the 2006 RTIP Augmentation is similar to MTC's policies and procedures for previous RTIP programming cycles. The 2006 guidance has been updated to reflect changes to the CTC STIP guidelines. Key issues for the 2006 RTIP are presented below. A more detailed explanation of changes to MTC's 2006 RTIP guidance is outlined in the attached MTC Executive Director's Memorandum.
- Issues:**
- 1) **Planning, Programming, and Monitoring.** The passage of AB 2538 increases the MTC-region's limit on PPM funding from 1% to 5%.
 - 2) **Corridor Mobility Infrastructure Account Projects.** The MTC Guidance encourages CMAs to consider CMIA project corridors in the mix of investment options for RTIP Augmentation funds, to maximize the benefits to these corridors.
 - 3) **Extension Requests.** The updated procedures for STIP Amendments and Extensions now require project sponsors to be present at the CTC meeting whenever their extension request is being considered, and to submit a listing of all deadlines and statuses for allocated STIP projects, as well as for federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) or Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funded projects.
- Recommendation:** Refer MTC Resolution No. 3790, with attachments, to the Commission for approval, and authorize a call for projects.
- Attachments:** Executive Director's Memorandum
MTC Resolution No. 3790
- Attachment 1 – 2006 RTIP Augmentation Policies, Procedures and Project Selection Criteria (with attachments)
 - Attachment 2 – Procedures for STIP Amendments and Extensions