

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 9, 2007

MINUTES

Attendance

Chairperson Lempert convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. In addition to Chairperson Lempert, the following Committee members were in attendance: Commissioners Azumbrado, Giacomini, Glover, Halsted, Spring, Yeager, Rubin and McLemore. Also in attendance was Commissioner Tissier.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Committee unanimously approved the following items on the consent calendar:

- Minutes of January 12, 2007 Committee Meeting
- Contract Amendment #1 – Freeway Service Patrol: Absolute Wireless, (\$133,120)
- TransLink®
 - (i) Funding Agreement Amendment – Consortium Assistance: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, (\$134,700)
 - (ii) Funding Agreement – Implementation Management: San Francisco MTA, (\$450,000)
- Regional Signal Timing Program – 2007 Cycle Projects.

MTC Resolution No. 3794: Transfer \$1.5 Million from Caltrans to MTC to Supplement the Freeway Performance Initiative Corridor Studies

Ms. Joy Lee, MTC staff, reported that MTC and Caltrans are committed to the development of corridor management plans. MTC has worked with Caltrans to plan for effective management and expansion of the Bay Area freeway system, and are currently working on the corridor effort. Caltrans has allocated \$1.5 million of State Highway Account funds to supplement the MTC's existing budget for the corridor studies. Staff recommends referring MTC Resolution No. 3794 to the Commission for approval to authorize MTC to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to accept the \$1.5 million for this purpose.

Commissioner Yeager noted that Santa Clara County VTA has been conducting corridor studies throughout the county with Caltrans. VTA has developed a comprehensive set of criteria to determine how projects are to be prioritized for funding and wanted to make sure that MTC staff conferred with VTA when conducting the corridor studies. Ms. Lee noted that the corridor plans are a cooperative effort with MTC, Caltrans, and the Congestion Management Agencies, and VTA will be involved in every step of the process.

Commissioner Spering moved to refer MTC Resolution No. 3794 to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Contract – Freeway Service Patrol: Various Contractors

Ms. Danielle Stanislaus, MTC staff, requested the Committee's approval of the proposed contract awards to towing companies for the FSP services on 19 Bay Area beats. She reported that the contracts cover a 4-year period, extending from FY 2007-08 through 2010-11. She noted that the addition of 4 new beats this contract period; it will bring the FSP program coverage to almost 550 miles of freeway in the Bay Area.

Ms. Stanislaus reported that MTC SAFE received a total of 37 proposals from 20 operators. The proposals were reviewed by an evaluation panel consisting of MTC SAFE, Caltrans, and CHP staff. Each proposal was reviewed and scored based on the evaluation criteria. Site visits were also conducted by the evaluation panel, including interviews with operator staff. Alternate tow contractors were also selected to provide service in the event the recommended contractors are, for any reason, not retained.

Commissioner Spering asked if there was special training that the contractors take to provide service on rural freeway such as Highway 12 in Solano County. Ms. Stanislaus noted that all of the drivers are required to go through initial proficiency testing by CHP, including a 3-day certification and training class with additional extensive training by the CHP for services on freeways with narrow shoulders, etc.

Commissioner Azumbrado asked whether pricing varied among the different beats. Ms. Stanislaus responded that on average, the cost to operate one tow truck per year was about the same across all of the beats in all of the areas.

Commissioner Azumbrado asked if there were any objective measures that were used to select the contractors. Ms. Stanislaus noted that in cases where existing contractors were being evaluated, the panel has a full listing of violations that were accrued over the past contract period and supplemental data that backs up the panel's rating.

Commissioner Spering moved to negotiate and enter into contracts with the recommended contractors to provide Freeway Service Patrol service in the Bay Area, in an amount not to exceed \$18,375,600 and an additional \$296,200 for the alternate contractors, should they need to be used during the first year of the contract. Commissioner Rubin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bike to Work Day Update

Ms. Susan Heinrich, MTC staff introduced Ms. Cole Portocarrero of the Bay Area Bicycle Coalition (BABC). Ms. Portocarrero briefed Committee members on the Bike to Work Day (BTWD) event planned for 2007. She noted that this year, the BABC would like to expand the definition of success for Bike to Work Day by broadening the focus to include the quality of the outcomes, community engagement, media coverage, volunteer commitment, local grass-root efforts, and ensuring that the message of Bike to Work Day resonates with the Bay Area community beyond just the one day event. All Bike to Work Day 2007 materials and activities will help to promote the message that bicycling can be done all year long and will promote 511/511.org as year-round bicycling information resources. Ms. Portocarrero noted some of the regional highlights for 2006, which included the Team Bike Challenge and the Bike Commuter of the Year Award.

Commissioner Lempert noted she had reviewed the 2006 event DVD. Commissioner Yeager noted that he had attended the Team Bike Challenge last year.

Public Comment/Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2007 at 9:45 a.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.

Approved: _____ Date: March 9, 2007
Sue Lempert, Chairperson