

# Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

June 13, 2007

Item Number 3b

## Resolution No. 3813

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- Subject:** FY 2007-08 State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary Program.
- Background:** Consistent with MTC's adopted STA programming and allocation policy, MTC Resolution No. 2310, Revised, population-based STA funds are available to support special projects of regional interest and transit coordination projects, especially those identified in the Commission's SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan.
- The Commission annually adopts the STA Regional Discretionary Program. Attachment A to MTC Resolution No. 3813 updates the programming for FY 2007-08. Attachment B provides information about those programming elements with detail of how the funds will be used.
- Staff is recommending for FY 2007-08 a one-year STA Regional Discretionary Program in the amount of \$26.9 million. These funds will be directed to TransLink®, 511 Transit, Transit Connectivity and Lifeline activities, as well as other transit coordination projects. Of this amount, roughly \$21.0 million is programmed to MTC and \$2.2 million is programmed to specific transit agencies. The claimants for the remaining FY 2007-08 program balance of \$3.7 million will be determined later.
- After FY 2007-08 programming, the STA Regional Discretionary Program has an estimated fund balance of \$27.0 million. This fund balance is included as part of stakeholder discussions on a new distribution formula beginning FY 2008-09 for the region's STA population-based funds.
- Issues:** None
- Recommendation:** Refer MTC Resolution No. 3813 to the Commission for approval.
- Attachments:** MTC Resolution No. 3813

Date: June 27, 2007  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 3813

This resolution establishes a one-year program for Fiscal Year 2007-08 for MTC State Transit Assistance (STA) Regional Discretionary funds.

Further discussion of this program is contained in the Programming & Allocations Committee Summary Sheet dated June 13, 2007.

Date: June 27, 2007  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC

RE: One-year MTC Regional Discretionary Program for FY 2007-08 State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution No. 3813

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area pursuant to Government Code Section 66500 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the State Transit Assistance (STA) fund is created pursuant to Public Utilities Code § 99310 et seq., and

WHEREAS, Public Utilities Code § 99313 provides for the allocation by the Controller of State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to MTC based on the ratio of the population of the area under MTC's jurisdiction to the total population of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with PUC Code § 99316(a) MTC has created the State Transit Assistance fund with Alameda County for deposit of STA funds received from the State Controller; and

WHEREAS, Public Utilities Code § 99313.6(d) provides that MTC is an eligible claimant for such population-based STA funds for projects to achieve regional transit coordination objectives; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a Transit Coordination Implementation Plan pursuant to Government Code Section 66516.5 which identifies a number of projects to be implemented by MTC and the region's transit agencies to improve coordination of services; and

WHEREAS, the projects listed in Attachment A to this resolution, attached hereto, and incorporated herein as though set forth at length, are consistent with the STA allocation policy established in MTC Resolution No. 2310, Revised; and

WHEREAS, MTC has provided detailed information about the use of STA funds for the projects in FY 2007-08 as shown in Attachment B to this resolution, attached hereto, and incorporated herein as though set forth at length; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the projects and purposes listed in Attachment B comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq., and the State EIR Guidelines (14 Cal. Code of Regs. § 15000 et seq.)

WHEREAS, MTC has complied with the applicable rules and regulations for an allocation of STA funds under 21 Cal. Code of Regs. § 6730 et seq.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that STA funds are programmed by MTC in the amounts and for the purposes that are specified in Attachment A and described in Attachment B to this resolution, attached hereto and made a part of this resolution.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Bill Dodd, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California on June 27, 2007.

Date: June 27, 2007  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC  
Revised:

Attachment A  
Resolution No. 3813  
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**STA Regional Discretionary Program  
FY 2007-08**

<b>Funding Availability</b>	<b>Amount</b>
FY 2007-08 STA Fund Estimate	\$53,925,166

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Claimant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
TransLink®	MTC	\$5,158,000
TransLink® Grant Administration	GG Transit	\$13,000
TransLink® Incentive Fund	AC Transit	\$199,000
TransLink® Incentive Fund	BART	\$531,000
TransLink® Incentive Fund	Caltrain	\$44,000
TransLink® Incentive Fund	GG Transit	\$162,000
TransLink® Incentive Fund	SFMTA	\$672,000
TransLink®	TBD/Various Operators	\$2,700,000
511 Transit (Regional Transit Information System)	MTC	\$364,000
511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup System	MTC	\$1,000,000
Regional Coordination Support	MTC	\$1,621,000
Transit Connectivity	MTC	\$10,188,000
Regional Transit Information Kiosk	MTC	\$100,000
Regional Transit Marketing	MTC	\$46,000
Regional Public Opinion Poll	MTC	\$100,000
Project Management Tools/IFAS Customization	MTC	\$200,000
Project Monitoring and Audits	MTC	\$150,000
Regional Operations Support Contingency	MTC	\$430,000
Regional Paratransit Program	CCCTA	\$75,000
Regional Eligibility Database	CCCTA	\$40,000
Regional Express Bus Program	LAVTA	\$21,000
Regional Express Bus Program	SamTrans	\$496,000
Transit Emergency Satellite Telephones	MTC	\$16,000
Transit Efficiency	MTC	\$50,000
Transit Facilitation/Studies Contingency	MTC	\$160,000
Legislative Consultant	MTC	\$205,000
Lifeline Transportation Program	TBD/Various Operators	\$1,000,000
Community-Based Transportation Plans	MTC	\$1,200,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$26,941,000</b>

STA Balance Estimate	\$26,984,166
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Date: June 27 2007  
W.I.: 1152  
Referred by: PAC  
Revised:

Attachment B  
Resolution No. 3813  
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## **STA Regional Discretionary Program Summary FY 2007-08**

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 2007-08 STA Regional Discretionary Program totals \$26,941,000 and generally focuses on delivering TransLink<sup>®</sup>, 511 Transit (Regional Transit Information System), and Lifeline services consistent with the Commission's Transportation 2030 Plan. In addition, funds are programmed to implement connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs. More detail about specific projects follows.

### **TransLink<sup>®</sup>**

***Programmed to MTC: \$5,158,000***  
***Programmed to GGT: \$13,000***  
***Programmed to AC Transit: \$199,000***  
***Programmed to BART: \$531,000***  
***Programmed to Caltrain: \$44,000***  
***Programmed to GGT: \$162,000***  
***Programmed to SFMTA: \$672,000***  
***Programmed to claimants yet to be determined: \$2,700,000***

TransLink<sup>®</sup> is the Bay Area's new regional transit fare payment system. When fully implemented, transit riders will be able to pay transit fares on any transit system in the region with a reloadable TransLink<sup>®</sup> smart card. The TransLink<sup>®</sup> card stores transit value – electronic cash (e-cash) and/or transit passes, and transit riders “tag” the card by touching it to a TransLink<sup>®</sup> card reader when boarding a transit vehicle or entering a station. The reader deducts the correct fare including any transfers or other discounts. TransLink<sup>®</sup> is currently operating on AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit and Ferry (GGT); the system will expand next to BART, Caltrain and Muni. The system is expected to be available on every transit system in the region in the following years. In 2004, MTC and the region's transit agencies formed the TransLink<sup>®</sup>

Consortium to oversee the implementation and operation of TransLink<sup>®</sup>.

MTC's TransLink<sup>®</sup> responsibilities include oversight of a contract with Motorola, Inc. to design, build, operate and maintain the TransLink<sup>®</sup> system and of a number of other contracts related to the implementation and operation of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> system. MTC has provided funds for the implementation of the program, and MTC will pay a portion of the ongoing fixed and variable operating costs. The transit agencies are responsible for operating and maintaining TransLink<sup>®</sup> on their respective systems, and the transit agencies pay a portion of the ongoing variable operating costs.

\$4,797,000 in STA funds will cover MTC's share of fixed and variable operating costs associated with the TransLink<sup>®</sup> project. Operating costs are incurred through MTC's contracts with Motorola, Inc. for operation of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> system and AT&T, which provides communications services related to TransLink<sup>®</sup> operations. During the coming fiscal year, MTC expects a substantial increase in the number of transit riders using TransLink<sup>®</sup> to ride AC Transit and GGT. MTC also expects transit riders to begin using TransLink<sup>®</sup> to ride BART, Caltrain and Muni in the latter part of the fiscal year. Consistent with the TransLink<sup>®</sup> Inter-Agency Participation Agreement, STA funds will also support the TransLink<sup>®</sup> Incentive Fund, which MTC will use to offset transit operators' shares of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> operating expenses in the first years of TransLink<sup>®</sup> operations. \$1,608,000 in STA funds are programmed to AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, GGT and SF MTA for this purpose.

In addition, \$2,700,000 in STA funds will fund several enhancements to the TransLink<sup>®</sup> implementation requested by the participating transit agencies. The enhancements include integration of TransLink<sup>®</sup> with BART's ticket vending machines, implementation of a TransLink<sup>®</sup> Consortium Information Management System, expansion of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> card and value distribution network, and development of transit agencies' financial reconciliation procedures. Finally, \$361,000 in STA funds will serve as local match to federal funds for TransLink<sup>®</sup> capital costs, and \$13,000 in STA funds will cover GGT's administration of federal funds used to support the implementation of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> system.

### **511 Transit (formerly called Regional Transit Information System)**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$364,000***

In FY 2007-08, STA funds will serve as local match to federal STP and CMAQ funds for the 511 Transit program. 511 Transit collects, maintains, updates and distributes region-wide transit service information for the benefit of the traveling public and MTC's transit partners. The three major components are:

- 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 current trip planner. Access to the 511 Transit website is provided through MTC's traveler information portal ([www.511.org](http://www.511.org)) where traffic, ridesharing and bicycle information is also available.
- Regional transit trip planner - The public can plan transit itineraries any time of the day or night using the internet-based 511 TakeTransit Trip Planner<sup>SM</sup>. Transit agency call

center staff also has access to the trip planner for assisting customers with trip planning. Over the next year, MTC will implement a new trip planner (see details below).

- Regional Transit Database (RTD) - The RTD is the central repository and data management system for comprehensive regional transit data used in the 511 Transit website, including the trip planner.

Aside from ongoing responsibilities to maintain and update the transit data needed for regional transit trip planning, MTC has initiated efforts to replace the existing Transtar trip planning application by spring 2008 with a new commercial off-the-shelf product developed by a vendor based in Germany named mdn. MTC will also expand the automated data transfer processes it recently implemented on AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit and SamTrans to other agencies, including County Connection, LAVTA and VTA. Finally, MTC will initiate some enhancements to transit information provided through personalized My 511 web services.

### **511 Emergency Service Planning/Backup System**

***Programmed to MTC: \$1,000,000***

The April 2007 collapse of a portion of Interstate 580 in the Macarthur Maze served as an important real-life drill for emergency response and emphasized the need for MTC to make key emergency-related investments. One investment area is in the region's 511 Traveler Information Program. Our usage statistics revealed that the public turned to the 511 system, and our experience at Caltrans' transportation management center showed that 511 staff played a key role in collecting and disseminating important information about the road closure and transportation alternatives. In FY 07/08, \$1 million in STA funds will begin to make the 511 system more robust in the event of an emergency and improve its ability to respond, including:

- Relocate 511 servers (phone, web, trip planner) to facilities that offer burstable capacity and better operational uptime;
- Build and maintain redundant 511 systems (phone, web, trip planner) outside the Bay Area to ensure quick availability if the primary facility is destroyed; and
- Develop and implement an emergency response toolkit that uses fewer system resources resulting in more system capacity. The toolkit will provide greater flexibility in disseminating specific emergency information including a content management system that will allow for remote access to post valuable disaster-related transportation information to 511.org; an enhanced ticker on 511.org that provides specific, high-impact emergency messages; and tools to improve the automated system's ability to play emergency-specific information and detour driving times.

### **Regional Coordination Support**

***Programmed to MTC: \$1,621,000***

Consistent with past practice, FY 2007-08 STA funds will support a portion of MTC staff costs related to the TransLink<sup>®</sup>, Regional Transit Information System and Transit Connectivity projects. 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.

### **Transit Connectivity**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$10,188,000***

In April 2006, MTC adopted a Transit Connectivity Plan and incorporated its findings into the SB 1474 Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (Resolution 3055, Revised). In July 2006, MTC adopted the funding component of the Transit Connectivity Plan (Resolution 3771), which specifies the roles and responsibilities of MTC and the transit operators to pay for specific transit connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs. Consistent with the funding plan, MTC is investing \$10 million in initial capital improvements at 24 regional transit hubs (including 3 airports).

MTC and the transit agencies have conducted performance reviews of all hubs relative to the requirements of the Transit Connectivity Plan. In FY 07/08, MTC staff will work with transit agencies to address hub review findings and implement specific hub improvements. \$9,958,000 in STA funds is programmed in FY 07/08 for wayfinding signage, real-time transit information displays and regional transit information cases (RTICs). Efforts will focus on wayfinding signage as the most important connectivity project from a priority and project readiness standpoint. MTC and transit agencies will work together to define an approach to completing work at each hub, develop detailed conceptual plans for signage needs and placement, and develop engineering documents to guide signage fabrication, installation and cost estimates. Implementation will occur after MTC staff approval of the engineering documents. MTC will enter into funding agreements with each transit agency to perform the work, and in some cases may manage the work on behalf of transit agencies that do not have the resources to do so.

The Transit Connectivity Plan also recommends a greater regional commitment to maintaining transit information in the RTICs. MTC plans to enter into an agreement with a transit operator to maintain RTICs on behalf of the region. In FY 2007-08, up to \$180,000 is programmed for these ongoing maintenance activities subject to execution of an agreement with MTC. Finally, \$50,000 in STA funds is programmed for review and monitoring of performance toward meeting the region's transit connectivity objectives.

### **Regional Transit Information Distribution**

***Programmed to MTC:           \$100,000***

In FY 2007-08, \$100,000 will be programmed to support the distribution of regional transit information at a kiosk located at the Embarcadero BART/Muni station. Following the recommendations made in MTC's 2006 Transit Connectivity Plan, the transportation information kiosk will provide the venue to distribute 511, TransLink, FasTrak, and other MTC-related information and display real-time transit information for BART, Muni and ferries. The funds will be used for kiosk operations and will be paid directly to the kiosk's vendor.

### **Regional Transit Marketing**

***Programmed to MTC: \$46,000***

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 2007-08, the program will promote the TransLink® card to transit riders to increase market share of TransLink®. STA funds will serve as local match to federal CMAQ funds for Regional Transportation Marketing.

### **Regional Public Opinion Poll**

***Programmed to MTC: \$100,000***

Many of MTC's regional operations projects are customer-driven. Feedback from customers on the types of services they want and the best way to provide those services plays an important role in shaping project delivery. In FY 07/08, MTC will spend \$100,000 to better understand public awareness and opinions of regional services. Topics could include fare payment, traveler information, customer service and other transit connectivity issues.

### **Project Management Tools/IFAS Customization**

***Programmed to MTC: \$200,000***

MTC will identify needs and solutions to improve internal project and budget management. More specifically, STA funds will be used to implement new tools to integrate and use the Accounting Department's Integrated Financial and Administrative Solution (IFAS) software more efficiently. Included in this effort will be to identify and create specific customized project management reports using the existing IFAS system. As a part of this effort, the expertise of a consultant from the IFAS software company is expected to be a part of the solution. In addition, MTC may also explore and implement other tools to facilitate project management at MTC.

### **Project Monitoring and Audits**

***Programmed to MTC: \$150,000***

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.

### **Regional Operations Support Contingency**

***Programmed to MTC: \$430,000***

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® and the Regional Transit

Information System. Unspent contingency funds will either be returned to the STA program at the end of FY 2007-08 for future reallocation to regional projects, or retained (in which case they will offset next year's contingency request).

### **Regional Paratransit Program**

***Programmed to CCCTA: \$75,000***

In FY 2007-08, \$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.

CCCTA will provide progress reports summarizing work performed.

### **Regional Eligibility Database**

***Programmed to CCCTA: \$40,000***

A Regional Eligibility Database (RED) was developed in 1994 to facilitate the regional ADA eligibility process. The RED consists of two systems: 1) a database of eligibility information, and 2) a network connecting 23 paratransit operator client sites to the RED. A primary purpose of the RED is to allow participating transit operators to easily verify the eligibility status of persons throughout the region. The RED was upgraded over the past few years. STA funds will be used to provide technical support to RED users and administrators through a consultant contract managed by CCCTA.

### **Regional Express Bus Program**

***Programmed to LAVTA: \$21,000***

***Programmed to SamTrans: \$496,000***

MTC initiated the Regional Express Bus Program in 2000, when the region received a state Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) grant of \$40 million for the purchase of 94 buses. These buses went to 9 operators that had proposed starting or expanding express bus routes. Regional STA funds were proposed to support these routes for the first five years. Regional Measure 2 passed in 2004, which provided ongoing operating support for express bus services which could meet performance standards established by MTC. Most of the TCRP routes were incorporated into the RM2 program. However, two routes which were not eligible for the RM2 program continue to receive STA funding for the transition period. The FY 2007-08 funding for these routes is \$21,000 for LAVTA and \$496,000 for SamTrans. This source of operating support will end after FY 2009-10.

### **Transit Emergency Satellite Telephones**

***Programmed to MTC: \$16,000***

In FY 2006-07, MTC used STA funds to purchase and operate mobile and fixed satellite telephones for emergency communications between eight transit agencies. In FY 2007-08, \$16,000 in STA funds is programmed to MTC to cover one year of operating costs.

### **Transit Efficiency**

***Programmed to MTC: \$50,000***

This project will follow-up on the work performed in Spring 2006 to evaluate the state of transit efficiency among Bay Area transit operators. The original effort was at the request of the MTC Advisory Council and led to a dialogue between MTC Commissioners and transit general managers as part of a Commission Workshop. The \$50,000 proposed in the FY 2007-08 budget will be used to further initiatives related to establishing regional best practices, developing regional performance targets, and furthering functional or institutional consolidation objectives.

### **Transit Facilitation/Studies Contingency**

***Programmed to MTC: \$160,000***

These funds will allow MTC to respond to regional or subregional transit planning needs or requests as they arise throughout FY 2007-08. For example, a study may be completed that recommends additional follow-up, a partnership opportunity may arise that benefits MTC's regional transit coordination objectives or a particularly difficult regional issue may emerge that requires consulting assistance to forge consensus.

### **Legislative Consultant**

***Programmed to MTC: \$205,000***

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: \$1,000,000***

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. The Commission approved an initial Lifeline Program of Projects for FY 2005/06 - FY 2007/08 in December of 2006. The Commission previously allocated 6.5 million in STA funds to fund these projects. \$1 million in 07/08 STA funds is also allocated for this purpose.

**Community-Based Transportation Plans**

***Programmed to MTC: \$1,200,000***

In 2002, MTC launched the community-based transportation planning (CBTP) program, a collaborative planning process that involves residents in minority and low-income communities, community organizations that serve them, transit operators, congestion management agencies and MTC. The outcome of the planning process is a community-based transportation plan that includes locally-identified transportation needs, as well as solutions to address them. MTC initially funded plans in 25 communities. MTC will fund an additional 19 plans with STA funds so that plans will be completed in all forty-four communities of concern listed in the Transportation 2030 Equity Analysis.