Date: May 24, 2006
W.I.: 1152
Referred by: PAC
Revised: 06/28/06-C
07/26/06-C
09/27/06-C
07/25/07-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.

This resolution was revised on July 26, 2006 to add funds for implementation of the Transit Connectivity Plan pursuant to Resolution No. 3771 and for three additional days of free transit on Spare-the-Air days.

This resolution was revised on September 27, 2006 to add funds for transit emergency communication equipment.

This resolution was revised on July 25, 2007 to add a FY2006-07 expense for the Regional Express Bus program that had been omitted in error.

Further discussion of this program is contained in the Programming & Allocations Committee Summary Sheets dated May 10, 2006, June 14, 2006, July 12, 2006, September 13, 2006, and July 11, 2007.

Date: May 24, 2006
W.I.: 1152
Referred by: PAC

RE: One-year MTC Regional Discretionary Program for FY 2006-07 State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 3761

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 2006-07 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

Jon Rubin, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California on May 24, 2006.

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Attachment A
Resolution No. 3761
Page 1 of 2

STA Regional Discretionary Program
FY 2006-07

Funding Availability	Amount
FY 2006-07 STA Fund Estimate***	$60,595,674

Project Name	Claimant	Amount
Transit Emergency Communication Equipment****	MTC	$36,510
Transit Connectivity**	TBD	$2,500,000
Transit Connectivity**	AC Transit	$175,000
Transit Connectivity**	MTC	$175,000
Free Transit on Spare-the-Air Days**	MTC	$5,400,000
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
Regional Express Bus Program*****	SamTrans	$190,101
Total		$25,655,611

STA Balance Estimate	$34,940,063

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Attachment A
Resolution No. 3761

STA Regional Discretionary Program
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Transit Emergency Communication Equipment****	MTC	$36,510
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Regional Coordination Support	MTC	$1,601,000
Regional Transit Information System	MTC	$497,000
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Regional Paratransit Program	MTC	$75,000
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Lifeline Transportation Program	TBD/Various Operators	$6,570,000
Regional Express Bus Program*****	SamTrans	$190,101
Total		$25,655,611

STA Balance Estimate	$34,940,063

***** Program was revised on July 25, 2007 to program $190,101 to the Regional Express Bus program that had been omitted in error. Program expenses were incurred in FY2006-07.

**** Program was revised on September 27, 2006 to program $36,510 to MTC for purchase and operation of transit emergency communication equipment.

*** FY2006-07 Fund Estimate revised per July 26, 2006 revision to include STA funds enacted in FY2006-07 State budget.

** Program was revised on July 26, 2006 to program $2,500,000 to yet-to-be-determined project sponsors for initial capital investments in wayfinding signage, real-time displays and Regional Transit Information Cases (RTICs), up to $175,000 to AC Transit for RTIC maintenance, $75,000 to MTC for Transit Connectivity performance reviews and monitoring, and $100,000 to MTC for distribution of transit information at regional transit hubs. In addition, $5,400,000 was programmed to MTC for up to three additional Spare-the-Air free transit days.

* Program was revised on June 28, 2006 to program an additional $5,000,000 in STA funds for TransLink® operations in FY 2006/07.

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 $25,465,510 and generally focuses on delivering TransLink®, the Regional Transit Information System (RTIS) and Lifeline services consistent with the Commission's Transportation 2030 Plan. In addition, funds are programmed to implement connectivity improvements at regional transit hubs and to support free transit on Spare-the-Air days. More detail about specific projects follows.

Transit Emergency Communications Equipment
Programmed to MTC: $36,510
In FY 2005-06, MTC programmed and allocated $98,400 in STA funds to enhance emergency communication capabilities by purchasing mobile and fixed satellite telephones for eight transit agencies, as well as paying for service fees. However, the procurement and installation of these devices actually cost more than originally estimated. In FY 2006-07, $22,620 in STA capital is programmed to supplement earlier programming and $13,890 in STA operating is programmed to cover one year of operating costs.

Transit Connectivity
Programmed to transit operators/MTC yet to be determined: $2,500,000
Programmed to MTC: $175,000
Programmed to AC Transit: $175,000
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 will

invest $10 million in wayfinding signage, real-time display and regional transit information cases (RTICs) at regional transit hubs. Of this amount, $2.5 million is programmed in FY 2006-07. A series of performance reviews and ongoing monitoring activities will assess how each hub compares to the connectivity requirements and guidelines established in the Plan, and will become the basis for allocating these capital funds. In FY 2006-07, $75,000 is devoted to hub performance reviews. 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 AC Transit to maintain RTICs on behalf of the region. In FY 2006-07, up to $175,000 is programmed to AC Transit for these ongoing maintenance activities subject to execution of an agreement with MTC and the agreed-upon budget for the work. Lastly, $100,000 is programmed in support of distribution of regional transit information at regional transit hubs.

Free Transit on Spare-the-Air Days
Programmed to MTC: $5,400,000
In FY 2006-07, MTC used regional CMAQ funds to cover the costs of providing up to three days of free transit in the region on Spare-the-Air days. The Spare-the-Air season heated up quickly with three consecutive Spare-the-Air days called in June, triggering the free transit promotion each day. In response, transit ridership increased significantly on most transit systems. Transit operators estimated a ridership increase of 10 percent or about 465,000 riders region wide over the 3-day period. Funds to support the free transit promotion are now exhausted, and the Spare-the-Air season has just begun. To take advantage of the extensive coordination and promotional efforts undertaken by MTC, the Air District and the transit operators and to encourage greater transit ridership and better air quality, $5.4 million in STA funds will be programmed and allocated to MTC to extend the promotion to include up to three additional days of free transit on Spare-the-Air days.

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 TakeTransit℠ 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 TakeTransit℠ 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 TakeTransit℠ 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 My511 SM 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.

Regional Express Bus Program
Programmed to SamTrans: $190,101
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 FY2006-07 funding for these routes is $190,101 for SamTrans. Surplus funds in the Regional Express Bus account provided the remaining funding for SamTrans and LAVTA in this fiscal year. This source of operating support will end after FY 2009-10.