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Deputy Executive Director, Policy

**Programming and Allocations Committee**  
**November 14, 2007**  
**Minutes**

Chairperson Tissier called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. Other Commissioners present were Vice Chair Federal Glover, Commissioners Ammiano, Bates, Blanchard, Cortese, Giacomini, Haggerty, Kinsey, Lempert, Sartipi, Worth and Yeager.

**Consent Calendar**

The Committee approved the following consent items.

- *Minutes of October 3, 2007 meeting as submitted.*
- *Amendment to the 2008 Productivity Improvement Program (PIP) from Transportation Development Act (TDA) Triennial Audit reports to add projects for AC Transit and LAVTA. MTC Resolution 3827, Revised.*
- *Allocation of FY 2007-08 State Transit Assistance (STA) to MTC for TransLink® operating purposes. MTC Resolution No. 3811, Revised.*

**Federal Programming**

- *Third Cycle Surface Transportation Program/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (STP/CMAQ) Bonus.*

The Committee approved the staff recommendation to program an additional \$72 million dollars.

Ross McKeown, MTC reported an anticipated additional \$72 million in federal CMAQ apportionment through FY 2008-2009. Staff is recommending a four-prong approach: 1) Exchange ready-to-go project for Future Flexible Funds; 2) Promote Safety; 3) Jumpstart Transit Expansion Projects and 4) Promote Access for Persons with Disabilities. Four projects are proposed for this funding: 1) Marin U.S. 101 Gap Closure / Priority Development Area Plans for \$12.5 million; 2) Golden Gate Bridge Median Barrier for \$20 million; 3) Resolution 3434 Strategic Plan Reserve for \$35 million and 4) Ed Roberts Campus for \$4.5 million. Projects total \$72 million.

MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger provided additional insight into staff's recommendation, and the concept of focusing the dollars on a few specific regional initiatives, similar to the Cycle 1 Bonus round.

Commissioner Lempert inquired about requests that were made that will not be funded in this round. Mr. McKeown stated there would be future funding opportunities within the STP/CMAQ program. Requests will be looked at again for future funding cycles. Commissioner Lempert also asked about criteria for projects that were submitted for projects. Mr. McKeown answered that projects that were considered were well defined and ready-to-go and can be used within a year to a year and a half.

Chair Tissier inquired if CMAs are aware of other funds where they can come and get monies for projects being put aside for the moment. Mr. Heminger reminded the committee that 2 of the 4 recommendations (FOCUS Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Transit Expansion Projects) were programmatic, and future projects within the program will be voted on in the future.

Chair Tissier also questioned the readiness of projects that were not recommended and if there was a certainty that these projects would get funding in the future. Ms. Bockelman stated that more research is needed to investigate the readiness of projects. Staff will work with local jurisdictions to determine.

Ms. Cathy Martinez, Ed Roberts Campus Board member expressed her gratitude to the commission for their support in closing the funding gap to this much needed project to aid people with disabilities.

Mr. Guy Thomas, Center for Accessible Technology Board member thanked the commission for their historic support in launching and continuing to support this project.

Mr. Jerry Grace inquired whether there will be future monies from the CMAQ program to go towards free transit. Ms. Bockelman clarified that Mr. Grace was referring to the 'Spare The Air Free Transit' days, in which she informed him that the "Spare the Air" season was over this year.

Commissioner Bates thanked staff for their recommendation to support the Ed Roberts Campus. City of Berkeley will be using General Fund monies to cover the required match monies. BART, ACCMA and Housing Incentive Program funds will also be used. City of Berkeley will have a decision before MTC commission on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Giacomini expressed her gratitude to the staff, Mayor Tom Bates and all those representing the Ed Roberts campus for all their hard work on the project.

Commissioner Ammiano, on behalf of the Golden Gate Bridge for the Median Barrier project, thanked staff for their hard work.

- *Agreement to exchange Marin Measure 'A' funds with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program funds. MTC Resolution No. 3842.*

Ross McKeown reported on an exchange agreement with the Transportation Authority of Marin to provide CMAQ funds to reduce costs associated with bonding for the U.S. 101 HOV Gap Closure project in San Rafael. This proposal implements the first prong of the Third Cycle Bonus funding described in the previous item. The agreement includes repayment provisions, specifically no interest for the first 3 years, and a 3% annual rate thereafter for a total of 8 years. Flexible funds are proposed to fund PDA projects, but a subsequent action by this Committee would be necessary to select specific projects.

Commissioner Kinsey stated his appreciation in moving forward this agreement.

Executive Director Steve Heminger indicated a similar exchange was done with Santa Clara Measure monies. These types of transactions provide MTC 'clean' money, which the region can use in innovative ways.

### **Regional Programming**

- *Regional Measure 2(RM2) Program Allocations*

The Committee approved MTC Resolution Nos. 3653, Revised, 3739, Revised, 3806, Revised, and 3828 and 3833. These resolutions allocate funds totaling approximately \$133 million in RM1 90% Rail Reserve East and RM2 capital funds.

Melanie Choy, MTC, reported on the five capital allocations to the following projects: 1) I-80/I-680/SR-12 interchange environmental and preliminary engineering funds to Solano Transportation Authority; 2) Safe Routes to Transit projects; 3) Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore project; 4) Water Transit Authority; and 5) BART Oakland Airport Connector project which includes joint RM1 90% Rail Reserve East and RM2 funds.

Dr. Carol Ward Allen, immediate past president of BART, expressed her gratitude to the committee and staff in the allocation of Regional Measure bridge toll funds.

Tom Dunscombe, BART Oakland Airport Connector Project Manager, gave project background and history and explained the current funding plan. Mr. Dunscombe presented the project, a driverless automated people mover system that will have the capacity to carry 2 to 4 million people annually between the Coliseum BART Station and the airport. Project funding consists of \$295 million in public funding and \$174 in anticipated private funding for a total project funding of \$469 million.

Commissioner Lempert inquired if this project would be using solar or other energy efficient sources. Mr. Dunscombe replied that there is no current requirement for solar panels in this project, but BART does require the contractor to utilize most current green standards for building the facilities.

Commissioner Worth asked how much time would be saved using the connector. Mr. Dunscombe replied that the current trip takes 18 min – 30 min, depending on traffic. The connector's total trip is 10 – 11 minutes. Commissioner Worth also inquired about the percentage of airport employees that would utilize the connector. Mr. Dunscombe informed the committee that only approximately 100 – 150 employees currently use the bus system, mostly because employees have a parking discount at the airport. BART is looking into also providing a discount to airport employees for use of the connector.

Commissioner Bates inquired about the fare for riding the connector. Mr. Dunscombe anticipates a \$5.00 charge for a one-way fare.

Mr. Jerry Grace expressed his support for BART's project moving forward.

**State**

*Trade Corridor Improvement Fund Update (Information Only)*

Carolyn Clevenger updated the Committee on developments for this \$2 billion statewide program funded through Prop 1B, and noted that the submittal deadline had been postponed; therefore, the item is only for information.

**California Transportation Commission (CTC) Report**

Alix Bockelman reported on the CTC meeting held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Southern California.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Jerry Grace showed a poster to the Committee regarding the importance of wearing a helmet when biking, skateboarding or skating.