



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 1b

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Memorandum

TO: Planning and Operations Committee

DATE: February 7, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W.I.: 1611

RE: Resolution of Support for ABAG and MTC Blueprint Grant Application

Staff seeks the support of the Commission as they pursue their latest Blueprint planning grant application to the State of California. The third year Regional Blueprint Planning Program Grant application will support further development and implementation of the FOCUS program.

ABAG and MTC received two previous blueprint grants from the State of California. These grants funded refining the *2000 Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project*. The blueprint funds also supported important work over the past 18 months and enabled the FOCUS program to reach a number of critical milestones and gain significant momentum. Key accomplishments include program acceptance and support from local jurisdictions, stakeholder organizations, and other bodies across the region; this was demonstrated by 50 jurisdictions applying from 100 locations seeking first round Priority Development Area (PDA) status.

The FOCUS program successes provide a firm foundation for the third year of blueprint grant funded work proposed in the application. FOCUS will continue to build effective program constructs, firmly establish legitimacy with local jurisdictions and stakeholder organizations and identify and direct resources to the right places. For the remainder of fiscal year 2007-08, FOCUS staff and the regional agencies will continue to identify resources, structure the various incentive programs, work with local jurisdictions, engage stakeholders and monitor progress of PDAs. The requested funds will go to directly support this work and are essential to the long-term success of the FOCUS effort.

MTC and ABAG submitted a joint application to the State of California requesting \$1,076,000 of grant funds with stated matching funds of \$322,800. If the grant is awarded in February 2008, the funds will be available in March 2008.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends support of the joint ABAG and MTC Blueprint Planning grant application and request MTC Resolution 3852 be signed and forwarded to the State.

Therese McMillan