

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

February 13, 2008

Item Number 3a

Resolution No. 3847

Subject: Program of Projects for FTA New Freedom Program (Section 5317) FY 2005-06 Large Urbanized Area Apportionment

Background: The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Freedom Program addresses the transportation needs of disabled persons through the provision of new services and facility improvements that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Program provides grants for operating and capital costs. Funds are apportioned based on urbanized area size, and proportionate share of population of persons with disabilities. MTC, as the designated recipient for the Bay Area's large UA apportionment, is responsible for conducting a competitive selection to determine which projects should receive funding.

MTC issued a call for projects to program the approximately \$1.5 million large UA FY 2005-06 apportionment only, to ensure that those funds are programmed before they expire on September 30, 2008. MTC received 16 applications, totaling roughly \$2.7 million in requests, or nearly 75 percent over the available funding.

An evaluation panel consisting of Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) members and MTC staff evaluated the applications.

Issues:

- 1) Seven projects are not recommended for funding at this time. Where appropriate, staff has provided suggestions to the project sponsors for improvements to their applications to enable them to compete better in future funding cycles.
- 2) Projects for this first year were evaluated based on an interim process. For the remaining three years of funding, roughly 77% of the available funding, staff will use lessons learned from the FY 2006 funding cycle to refine the New Freedom programming policies, and present those to the Programming and Allocations Committee for review and approval.

Recommendation: Refer Resolution No. 3847 to the Commission for approval.

Attachments: MTC Resolution No. 3847
Executive Director's Memorandum
Attachment 1



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Programming and Allocations Committee

DATE: February 13, 2008

FR: Executive Director

RE: New Freedom FY 2005-06 Program of Projects for Large Urbanized Areas

This memo presents for the Committee's approval the recommended \$1.5 million program of projects for the FY 2005-06 Bay Area's New Freedom Program.

Background

SAFETEA established the New Freedom Program to address the transportation needs of disabled persons through the provision of new services and facility improvements that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Funds are apportioned to large urbanized areas (UAs), to small UAs, and to non-UAs through a formula that is based upon the population of persons with disabilities. The table below shows apportionment amounts for the Bay Area's large UAs, for which MTC is the designated recipient; and California's small and non-UAs, for which Caltrans is the designated recipient. Designated recipients are responsible for conducting a competitive selection process.

	Actual FY 2006	Actual FY 2007	Estimated FY 2008	Estimated FY 2009
Bay Area Large UA	\$1,545,232	\$1,612,117	\$1,741,484	\$1,840,998
Antioch	\$56,232	\$60,601	\$65,464	\$69,205
Concord	\$127,429	\$121,779	\$131,551	\$139,069
San Francisco-Oakland	\$885,254	\$950,208	\$1,026,459	\$1,085,114
San Jose	\$404,370	\$399,440	\$431,494	\$456,151
Santa Rosa	\$71,947	\$80,089	\$86,516	\$91,460
California Small & Non-UA	\$2,369,770	\$2,339,499	\$2,527,237	\$2,671,650

UA = Urbanized Area

■ = Subject of Proposed Program of Projects

Note: The names given to the UAs correspond to the most populated city/cities within the area, but the areas themselves are larger.

Staff had intended to wait for the adoption of the Elderly and Disabled component of the Bay Area's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) prior to issuing a New Freedom call for projects. However, there was concern that delay in programming might put the FY 2006 apportionment at risk of expiring and being lost to the region. The Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) concurred with the MTC staff proposal to advance programming of the first year (roughly 20 percent of the total SAFETEA New Freedom Bay Area share) prior to the adoption of the Coordinated Plan; follow a simplified process to ensure that the FY 2006 funds would be obligated in a timely fashion; and use insights from the funding cycle to inform the remaining three years of funding.

Competitive Selection Process

MTC released the call for projects in November 2007, with applications due in mid-December.

Eligible projects were limited to those that could be underway in FY 2009. Eligible applicants were

limited to local government authorities and public transportation operators, and interested non-profit agencies and private operators of public transportation services were encouraged to partner as appropriate with a public agency sponsor. Drawing from both the Lifeline Transportation Program and the draft Coordinated Plan, qualitative evaluation criteria were developed. Also, applicants were required to consider in the development of their proposals the transportation gaps and coordination strategies that were identified in the draft Coordinated Plan.

Staff received 16 applications, totaling roughly \$2.7 million, or nearly 75 percent above the available funding. Of the 16 applications, eight were operational projects, three were traditional capital projects, and the remaining five projects involved mobility management, which FTA considers an eligible capital expense. For this program, mobility management service development and management that focuses on the needs of the transportation-disadvantaged disabled population, and involves coordinating services tailored to more cost-effectively meet the needs of this market. Mobility management figures prominently in SAFETEA's human service transportation coordination initiatives, and is identified as a need in the Bay Area's own Coordinated Plan.

An evaluation panel consisting of two EDAC members and two MTC staff convened to determine which projects should be recommended for funding. Following the evaluation criterion, the following emerged as the key considerations for the panel's recommended prioritization:

- **Demonstration of Need and Benefits:** ensuring the disabled population as the primary target audience; innovation and cost-effectiveness;
- **Evidence of Coordination, Partnership, and Outreach Efforts:** the extent to which New Freedom funding could serve as seed money for pursuing more complex mobility management initiatives
- **Project Readiness:** having a committed funding plan; thoroughness and reasonableness of the scope of work; for expansion projects, the demonstrated success of any pilot projects; and history of the sponsor's successful management of related projects.

For determining the amount of funding, considerations included the total amount of available funding for each UA, eligibility for funding from multiple UAs, reasonableness of the cost estimate, and project scalability.

Recommended Program of Projects and Next Steps

Attachment A lists the applications and the evaluation panel's recommendation for New Freedom funding. For projects with recommended funding that is less than the requested amount, staff has confirmed that the project sponsors would be able to implement a viable element of their initial project proposal. Staff have also briefed all applicants who are not proposed to receive funding at this time; and where appropriate, have provided suggestions for improvements to their applications that may enable them to compete better in the upcoming funding cycles. Further, the draft recommendations were presented and discussed with EDAC, the Transit Finance Working Group, and the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee, and their comments will be shared with this Committee at the meeting.

The next call for projects for the remaining three years, or approximately \$5.1 million, of authorized New Freedom Program funding is expected to be released by Fall 2008. Based on lessons learned from this funding cycle, staff will work closely with stakeholders to refine the New Freedom programming policies, including review of the interim evaluation criteria and

developing an appropriate framework for the growing interest in mobility management in the Bay Area (a key focus area of the Coordinated Plan). Staff will present the proposed programming policies to this Committee for your review and approval prior to beginning the next call for projects.

/Steve Heminger/

SH: CA

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Attachment A
Recommended Funding from New Freedom Program
FY 2005-06 Large Urbanized Area Apportionment

No.	Sponsor	Project Name	Total Cost	Amount Requested	Recommended Grant Amount	
Projects Recommended for Funding (alphabetical by sponsor)						
1	AC Transit	Paratransit Inventory	180,000	144,000	144,000	
2	Benicia, City of	Taxi Scrip Program Extension	30,000	15,000	15,000	
3	Berkeley, City of	Ed Roberts Campus/Ashby BART Station Intermodal Accessibility Enhancements	1,106,568	885,254	669,405	
4	CCCTA	Community Connection Program Expansion	125,000	62,500	62,500	
5	CCCTA	Comprehensive Mobility Options Inventory	43,750	35,000	35,000	
6	Contra Costa Co. Employment & Human Services Dept	Contra Costa Volunteer Driver Program Expansion	153,114	45,000	45,000	
7	SamTrans	Peninsula Ride Connection	184,200	147,200	147,200	
8	San Francisco MTA	NextMuni Audible Arrival Time/Push-to-Talk	523,000	418,400	200,000	
9	VTA	Mobility Options Travel Training Program	454,254	227,127	227,127	
Projects Not Recommended for Funding (alphabetical by sponsor)						
10	AC Transit	Mobile Data Terminals/Automatic Vehicle Locators for East Bay Paratransit Fleet	480,000	384,000	-	
11	Alameda, City of	Audible and Countdown Signal Access Enhancement	169,364	135,000	-	
12	Lafayette, City of	Lamorinda Spirit Van II for Medical and Dental Services	82,794	28,500	-	
13	LAVTA	LAVTA Travel Training	159,594	29,000	-	
14	Marin Transit	Marin Transit Mobility Management Office	144,813	115,850	-	
15	Rio Vista, City of	Route 52 Service Expansion	11,000	5,500	-	
16	San Francisco MTA	Paratransit Ramp Taxi Driver Incentive Program	110,000	55,000	-	
				Total	\$ 2,732,331	\$ 1,545,232
				Total Available		\$ 1,545,232
				Balance		\$ -

Date: February 27, 2008
W.I.: 1512
Referred by: PAC

ABSTRACT
Resolution No. 3847

This resolution adopts the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Freedom (Section 5317) Program of Projects for the large urbanized areas of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The following attachment is provided with resolution:

Attachment A FY 2005-06 New Freedom Program of Projects for
Large Urbanized Areas

Further discussion of this action is contained in the MTC “Executive Director’s Memorandum” and the Programming and Allocations Committee Summary, both dated February 13, 2008.

Date: February 27, 2008
W.I.: 1513
Referred by: PAC

Re: Program of Projects for Federal Transit Administration's New Freedom Program (Section 5317) Funds for Large Urbanized Areas

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION No. 3847

WHEREAS, the United States Code Title 49 Section 5317 (49 U.S.C. 5317) authorizes and sets forth the provisions for the New Freedom Program, which makes grants to recipients for addressing the transportation needs of disabled persons through the provision of new services and facility improvements that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, 49 U.S.C. 5317(c) apportions New Freedom funds by formula to large urbanized areas, small urbanized areas, and non-urbanized areas; and

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

WHEREAS, MTC is the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, consistent with 49 U.S.C. 5307(a)(2), MTC is the designated recipient of New Freedom Program funding apportionments for large urbanized areas in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, as the designated recipient, MTC has conducted a competitive selection process and developed for submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) a program of projects (POP) for the San Francisco Bay Area's large urbanized area New Freedom Program apportionment, attached hereto as Attachment A, and incorporated herein as though set forth at lengths; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that MTC adopts the New Freedom Program of Projects as listed in Attachment A; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MTC will submit to FTA a grant application to secure the New Freedom funding for the subrecipients listed in Attachment A; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MTC will enter into agreements with the subrecipients listed in Attachment A to ensure their compliance with all applicable Federal requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Attachment A may be revised from time to time by approval of MTC's Programming and Allocations Committee.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Bill Dodd, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at the regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California, on February 27, 2008.

Date: February 27, 2008
W.I.: 1513
Referred by: PAC

Attachment A
MTC Resolution No.3847
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NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM - FY 2005-06 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR LARGE URBANIZED AREAS

No.	Subrecipient	Project		Total Project Cost	Federal New Freedom Recommended Share
		Name	Description		
1	AC Transit	Paratransit Inventory	Conduct a detailed inventory of all available transit resources, including funding, equipment, and personnel, in Alameda and Western Contra Costa County to determine how best to structure a coordinated system. Also investigate institutional settings and financial implications of establishing a mobility manager.	\$180,000	\$144,000
2	Benicia, City of	Taxi Scrip Program Extension	Expand the Benicia Breeze Taxi Scrip Program to destinations in Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek to provide access to social service, medical centers, shopping, recreation and other quality of life destinations in Central Contra Costa County for seniors, persons with disabilities, and Medicare card holders.	\$30,000	\$15,000
3	Berkeley, City of	Ed Roberts Campus/Ashby BART Station Enhancements	Support construction of a universally designed helical ramp, oversized accessible elevators, and an accessible elevator lobby for people who will visit the Ed Roberts Campus.	\$1,106,568	\$669,405
4	Central Contra Costa Transit Authority	Community Connection Program Expansion	Provide a \$5,000 per van annual subsidy for maintenance of up to 25 retired paratransit vans for use by community-based organizations to provide transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities, with at least 50 trips per month to ADA-eligible individuals.	\$125,000	\$62,500
5	Central Contra Costa Transit Authority	Comprehensive Mobility Options Inventory	Conduct a comprehensive inventory of all available mobility options for seniors and persons with disabilities to serve as a building block for later developing a mobility management function for majority of Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley.	\$43,750	\$35,000
6	Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Dept	Contra Costa Volunteer Driver Program Expansion	Expand existing volunteer driver programs for disabled, homebound seniors to areas in Contra Costa County that are low-income and/or have high populations of ethnic groups who do not speak English as their primary language.	\$153,114	\$45,000

**NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM - FY 2005-06 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS FOR LARGE URBANIZED AREAS
(continued)**

No.	Subrecipient	Project		Total Project Cost	Federal New Freedom Recommended Share
		Name	Description		
7	San Mateo County Transit District	Peninsula Ride Connection	Provide mobility management services to seniors and people with disabilities in San Mateo County, including: assessing feasibility of countywide phone information and assistance service; coordinating corps of volunteer mobility ambassadors; updating the Senior Mobility Guide; coordinating and administering shared van program; promoting mobility in city planning processes; and developing business plan.	\$184,200	\$147,200
8	San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency	NextMuni Audible Arrival Time/Push-to-Talk (PTT)	Evaluate results of the pilot PTT installations, which translate bus arrival information and other messages to speech at bus shelters; and purchase and install PTT at an additional 270 shelter locations. Initial phase is the pilot program evaluation. Phases two, three, and four of the project would involve PTT installations at 147, 34, and then 89 locations.	\$523,000	\$200,000
9	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency	Mobility Options Travel Training Program	Provide travel training and fixed-route transit support information to persons with disabilities and seniors over a three-year period. Includes on-site and mobile presentations; specialized training for individuals with visual, cognitive, and developmental disabilities; group travel instruction; one-on-one travel instruction; and peer mode travel instruction.	\$454,254	\$227,127
Total					\$1,545,232