

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee Committee**

November 30, 2022

Agenda Item 5

MTC's Community Choice Program

Subject:

Overview of the Development and Design of MTC's Community Choice Program.

Background:

The Community Choice Program is a multi-pronged investment approach to expand mobility access and opportunity to all Bay Area communities while focusing on the underserved, overburdened, and MTC's Equity Priority Communities. The Program is an evolution of MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP - <https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/transportation/access-equity-mobility/lifeline-transportation-program>) and a paradigm shift that broadens MTC's equity investment approach while prioritizing needs identified in Community-Based Transportation Plans (CBTP). Funded by One Bay Area Grant (OBAG 3) and anticipated one-time Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 2) funds, Community Choice Cycle 1 will cover a four-year cycle, Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 totaling \$26 million, with \$4.5 million for planning, \$3 million dedicated to the CBTP and another \$1.5 million for community-based organizations (CBO) engagement. A participatory grantmaking process will shape and inform proposed funding guidelines.

Focus Areas Being Developed:

Based on the evaluation of MTC's LTP and CBTP Programs, staff is proposing the following structure for the Community Choice Program:

1. Community-Based Transportation Project Implementation

- ***Technical Assistance for Project Development:*** Staff is proposing funding to provide technical assistance to advance high-priority projects in MTC's Equity Priority Communities. These funds would provide a baseline source of funding to further develop concepts, positioning projects to become more competitive for future funding opportunities for implementation. Technical assistance areas may include preliminary engineering, design, and environmental work.

2. Participatory Budgeting (PB) Project Implementation

- This focus area builds upon MTC’s Participatory Budgeting Pilot implemented during LTP Cycle 5. These funds would establish the first regional scaling of implementing projects through a *community-led* process, with priorities identified, developed, and voted on by community members. The program funds high-priority, neighborhood-level projects ranging from sidewalk and bus stop enhancements to transit ambassadors.

3. Community Power-Building and Engagement

- ***Technical Assistance for Engagement and Outreach:*** Funding in this focus area would supplement existing resources for CBOs to conduct engagement and outreach during the project implementation phase. Specifically, this program would invest in additive, culturally-specific approaches to engage diverse, historically underrepresented groups. Grants would be available to CBOs.
- ***Technical Assistance for CBO and Local Government Capacity Building:*** Local government and CBOs are vital front-line practitioners, which require support not only in conducting the work but also in capacity building and infrastructure. The program is envisioned to provide resources to build upon CBO assets from training and development to grant management technical assistance supporting implementation of transportation investments. Grants would be available to CBOs and local jurisdictions.

Next Steps

Staff to obtain input, including results from the October “Community Choice Needs and Interest Survey.” Staff will return in early 2023 to present Draft Guidelines and hear feedback.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: PowerPoint