

Attachment A – Revised Principles for Redirecting Funds to Transit Operations

(Revisions are in italics)

These principles apply to fund sources that are under the direct authority of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to program, allocate, distribute or otherwise control; and that such fund sources allow flexibility to direct to transit operations within existing statutory authorities.

1. Use funding to smooth the transition to a transit system based on service demand and available resources. – A re-direction of funding for transit operations would be intended as temporary relief, not an ongoing subsidy. *The Commission seeks to aggressively pursue new funding at the federal and state levels to help catalyze a financial recovery for public transit that approaches its status prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impacts on ridership. Until which time such aid and recovery are realized, these investment principles and any attendant actions are designed to ease the disruption.*

To ease the disruption to agency labor forces and the public, funding should provide a “glide path” to an optimized system, once the availability of future operating resources and the demand for service are better understood. An expected federal funding relief package, a proposed vaccine roll-out plan, or other similar information could be important factors to right-size the system and establish a transition glide path.

2. The benefits of redirecting funds to transit operations should outweigh the disbenefits. – The opportunity costs or trade-offs involved with re-directing funds from their intended usage to transit operations can include, but are not limited to:
 - Capital job losses
 - Safety and reliability concerns if fund source is normally directed to state of good repair purposes
 - Other pandemic recovery strategies including bicycle/pedestrian, mobility, and regional programs and projects
 - Inability to implement Plan Bay Area /Sustainable Communities Strategy goals, priorities and climate objectives, and meet multiple federal performance requirements
 - Inability to fund county priorities including congestion relief and multi-modal improvements; including loss of leveraged state and federal competitive funds
 - *The ability of transit service benefitting from redirected funds to address the needs of those most dependent on its preservation, and for whom mobility options present undue burdens*

Further, the degree of impact that a redirection of a specific funding source might have, given the scale of operations funding need, should be considered. An analysis of the relevant costs and benefits should be conducted prior to the redirection of funding.

3. Specific to the federal transit formula funds programmed within the Transit Capital Priorities (TCP) process, the distribution of funds redirected from transit capital priorities to transit operations or preventive maintenance should promote fairness and balance of need across Bay Area operators. – Funds normally used to improve the state of repair of transit capital assets in the region are distributed based on capital rehabilitation and replacement need, limitations posed by federal Urbanized Area (UA) eligibility, and negotiated agreements related to the distribution of formula funds among eligible operators within UAs. Funding redirected from transit capital priorities to transit operations for any particular operator, should be treated as an advance against future funding shares for that operator.

4. *Any transit operator utilizing funding subject to these principles to preserve or otherwise enable transit service during the COVID-19 recovery, commits to providing that service consistent with the Transformational Transit Action Plan emerging from the Commission’s Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force. Such investment is intended not as a discrete and singular act, but as part of a suite of actions underway to stabilize transit service overall during the current pandemic crisis, and position that foundation to build a strategic recovery that better addresses the needs of Bay Area transit customers into the future.*