

Regional Network Management Council

October 28, 2024

Agenda Item 3c

Project Funding Recommendations for IDEA TSP & BusAID Programs (\$3,950,000)

Subject:

Approve recommendations of approximately \$1,950,000 for technical assistance on transit signal priority projects as part of the Innovative Deployments to Enhance Arterials with Transit Signal Priority (IDEA TSP) program, and \$2,000,000 to advance transit priority project planning through the Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) funding program.

Background – IDEA TSP:

The Bay Area has over 3,500 miles of arterials, many of which carry heavy traffic and experience significant congestion during the weekday peak periods. The IDEA TSP program is a regional initiative to provide support to cities, counties and transit agencies to develop and implement transit signal priority along their arterials to make transit faster and more reliable. Staff interviewed 16 transit agencies and cities to assess their technical assistance needs. Staff found a need for development support for smaller jurisdictions and systems integration support for larger jurisdictions.

This round of IDEA TSP will provide technical assistance support to cities, counties, and transit agencies through MTC-led consultant services contracts to develop transit signal priority projects and other related improvements along and/or crossing arterials. The call for projects was released on June 21, 2024, offering grants in two categories:

- **Planning and Design to Prepare for Implementation:** developing transit signal priority projects through planning/design, in order to create “shovel-ready” projects that could compete for capital funding grants.
- **Systems Engineering and Integration:** performing development and integration of a cloud-based transit signal priority system, and/or design a communications network required to support traffic signals with transit signal priority.

Call for Projects Outreach and Engagement:

The call for projects was promoted on the ABAG Technical Assistance Portal, as well as through the Arterials Operations Committee membership, the Transit Priority Working Group, Transit

Finance Working Group, and other relevant groups. In addition, MTC hosted a Tech Transfer Seminar: “TSP 102: Beyond the Basics” on August 13, 2024 where staff from San Francisco, San Jose, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Golden Gate Transit shared recent transit signal priority projects using various technologies. This seminar was intended to stimulate interest in potential projects that could be funded by the IDEA TSP grant, and it was attended by staff from more than 25 different public agencies and 20 private firms.

Five applications were received and reviewed by a panel including staff from MTC, Caltrans, and AC Transit, using the scoring metrics as described in the IDEA TSP Application Guidelines (Attachment A). The panel recommended funding all the applications submitted, shown in Table 1.

Background – BusAID:

BusAID is a Transit Transformation Action Plan initiative to reduce transit travel times and improve transit reliability through near-term, quick-build solutions. In May 2024, approximately \$18 million was awarded to eight projects sponsored by six different transit agencies and local jurisdictions (Round 1).

This summer, in conjunction with the IDEA TSP call for technical assistance, a second BusAID call for projects was released (i.e., Round 1.2). This round of funding was treated as a continuation of Round 1 and was limited to transit operators that were invited to secondary screening in the spring but were not ready to proceed with secondary screening at that time. It was also limited to operators that had not reached a \$5 million total funding cap in the spring. One application was received and reviewed by a panel including staff from MTC, Caltrans, and AC Transit, using the scoring metrics as described in the BusAID Program Guidelines (Attachment B). The panel recommended funding the application submitted, shown in Table 1.

Funding Recommendations

The panel recommended funding all IDEA TSP and BusAID Round 1.2 applications:

Table 1. IDEA TSP and BusAID Project Funding Recommendations

Agency	Project	County	Recommended Award
IDEA TSP			
CCTA	Danville/Hartz/San Ramon Coordinated Adaptive Traffic Signals	Contra Costa	\$ 250,000
TAM	Marin Countywide Signal Modernization	Marin	\$ 500,000
County Connection	Four Corridors TSP	Contra Costa	\$ 200,000
SamTrans	Countywide TSP Program	San Mateo	\$ 700,000
City of San José	TSP Evaluation & Signal Retiming	Santa Clara	\$ 300,000
Total – IDEA TSP			\$ 1,950,000
BusAID Round 1.2			
SamTrans	El Camino Real Corridor-Wide Project Initiation Document (PID)	San Mateo	\$2,000,000
Total – BusAID			\$ 2,000,000
TOTAL			\$ 3,950,000

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Approval of recommendations for action by RNM Committee.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 2024 IDEA TSP Technical Assistance Program Guidelines
- Attachment B: BusAID Program Guidelines
- Attachment C: Presentation