

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

June 9, 2023

Agenda Item 3c

Assembly Bill 1377 (Friedman): Homelessness Assistance on Transit

Subject:

Expands reporting requirement for recipients of state Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program funds to include a summary of efforts to improve service delivery to unsheltered individuals on transit systems within the recipient’s jurisdiction.

Background:

Assembly Bill (AB) 1377 would require applicants seeking allocations from the state Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program to provide data and a narrative summary of steps that the applicant has taken to improve the delivery of housing and services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness on transit facilities owned and operated by a transit district in their jurisdiction.

HHAP – which is administered by the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) – was created to enhance local capacity to address homelessness in their communities and support coordinated regional responses to homelessness challenges. Since 2019, HHAP has received four rounds of funding totaling \$3 billion, and the program is poised to receive another \$1 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24 State Budget. Large cities (with a population of 300,000 or more), counties, continuums of care (CoCs), and Tribes may apply for HHAP funding. HHAP applicants must comply with a robust performance monitoring and accountability framework. The program includes requirements for applicants to submit quarterly reports on program expenditures and annual reports documenting progress toward meeting their individualized goals (termed “outcome goals”) related to preventing and reducing homelessness. If an applicant has not made significant progress toward their outcome goals, the applicant must also submit a description of barriers and possible solutions to those barriers.

AB 1377 would additionally require that applicants seeking HHAP funds – large cities, counties and CoCs – include information about steps the applicant has taken to provide resources to unhoused individuals seeking refuge on buses, trains, ferries and public transit spaces in their annual reports.

Recommendation:

Support / ABAG Executive Board Approval

Support / MTC Commission Approval

Discussion:

As California's homelessness crisis grows, our buses, train cars, and transit stations are increasingly serving as places of refuge for individuals experiencing homelessness. For example, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) estimates that nearly 800 people seek shelter in Los Angeles County Metro transit public spaces on any given night, based on a 2022 point in time count. From BART to the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, transit operators across the Bay Area are similarly needing to respond to increasing rates of homelessness and related quality-of-life issues on their systems, while also seeking to connect people to resources.

Transit agencies in California do not receive direct funding to address homelessness on transit systems. Operators typically seek to coordinate with local city and county outreach teams to connect individuals on their systems with resources. However, according to Metro, locally funded city and county outreach teams often do not include transit public spaces, like courtyards and stations, in their planning and delivery of resources to areas where people experiencing homelessness often congregate.

While AB 1377 is a relatively modest bill, its requirement for local agencies applying for HHAP funds to report on how they are coordinating with transit agencies is an important first step the state can take to both help transit agencies reduce the extent to which persons experiencing homelessness rely upon transit stations and transit vehicles as a form of shelter and better address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in transit public spaces. Transit agencies, including BART, are investing in ambassador programs and crisis intervention teams, but ultimately, success in this space requires close collaboration with local partners. For these reasons, we recommend a support position on AB 1377.

Known Positions:

See Attachment A

Attachments:

- Attachment A: AB 1377 Known Positions



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