

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee

July 28, 2023

Agenda Item 4b

MTC's Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program

Subject:

Overview of MTC's CARE Program and Call for Projects Process.

Background:

In 2021, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted the Bay Area's most recent Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), [Plan Bay Area 2050](#) (PBA 2050). PBA2050 outlines the region's plan, incorporating equity through careful consideration of investments and policies that affect historically and systemically marginalized, underserved and excluded groups, including people with low incomes, people with disabilities and communities of color. PBA 2050 identified strategy "T2 – support community-led transportation enhancements in Equity Priority Communities." Since 2005, the [Lifeline Transportation Program](#) (LTP) has programmed over \$300 million, and advanced 300+ projects identified in [Community Based Transportation Plans](#) (CBTP). Through lessons learned from the previous six cycles of LTP and the application of [MTC's Equity Platform](#), LTP is being redesigned to address administrative fund source barriers to better align with community project needs while resourcing and centering community voice and power-building to strengthen community assets. This item, which was called "Community Choice" at the time, was presented to the Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee on November 30, 2022 and most recently to MTC's Transit Finance Working Group on July 5, 2023.

MTC's CARE Program

[MTC's Community Action Resource and Empowerment \(CARE\) Program](#) is a funding program to develop equity-based partnerships and provide resources to expand mobility access and opportunity to all communities while focusing on the underserved, overburdened, and [MTC's Equity Priority Communities](#). The fund will award \$21 million in state (Regional Early Action Planning 2.0) and federal (One Bay Area Grant 3) funds starting in fiscal year 2023-2024.

Below are key components of the Program:

- **Goal:** The goal of the program is to improve mobility and access to opportunity by advancing community-rooted initiatives identified in CBTPs.
- **Investment Areas:** The Program is envisioned to undertake three focus investment areas: participatory budgeting project implementation, technical assistance for project development, and community power-building and engagement. Community power building means advancing community-anchored approaches that ensure frontline communities have representation and power both at the policy-level and local investment decision-making.
- **Purpose:**
 - Project Implementation Strategy: The Program serves as providing a *baseline* source of funding to 1) implement high priority, neighborhood-level, community projects identified through a participatory budgeting process; 2) advance project development to increase readiness/competitiveness for additional funding sources.
 - Community Power-Building and Engagement Strategy: In addition to these project implementation strategies, the Program seeks to invest in community power-building by 1) supplementing outreach and engagement conducted by community-based organizations, and 2) supporting community-based organizations and local governments with technical assistance/capacity building resources to advance community-based transportation initiatives. .

In addition to coordinating with county transportation agencies and transit operators, MTC is exploring partnerships that address improving mobility and access to opportunity outcomes with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and health and social service sectors.

Next Steps

As a first step prior to the “Call for Projects” process, CARE is releasing a “Call for Interest Survey.” The survey can be accessed [here](#). Bay Area public agencies, including cities, counties, transit agencies, and county transportation authorities (CTAs) are invited to submit project ideas.

Below is the anticipated timeline of activities:

Activity	Anticipated Date*
Call for Interest Survey for Project Ideas: Announcement release	June 23, 2023
Interest Survey deadline	July 21, 2023 (extended to July 26, 2023)
MTC review and follow-up with proposers	July-August 2023
Informational Meetings and Call for Projects Application Release	Summer/September 2023

*Subject to change

Recommended Action:

Information item.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MTC CARE Program Guide – Call for Interest Process