

Programming and Allocations Committee HANDOUT - Agenda Item 3b.ii.



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February 12, 2018

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Mr. Steve Heminger
Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
The Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: State Transit Assistance (STA) Population-Based Program
MTC's Revised Programming Framework

Dear Mr. Heminger,

Over the past several months, MTC has been developing draft policies related to the revised programming framework for State Transit Assistance (STA) population based funds which have been presented to various working groups and committees. The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) appreciates your efforts thus far in reaching out to the Bay Area congestion management agencies (CMAs) and transit operators on this matter. These timely and inclusive discussions on a critical regional policy have been helpful and productive and we support its continuance moving forward.

Through this letter, the Alameda CTC would like to provide comments on MTC's revised approach as well as relay our expectations based on the memo presented to the Programming and Allocations Committee on January 10, 2018. These comments are based upon coordination with our local transit operators in Alameda County:

Block Grant Approach:

Alameda CTC and Alameda County transit operators support the following elements of MTC's revised proposal:

- Subvention of the programming of STA Population based funds to the county level. This approach enables transit priorities to be addressed and focused at a local level.
- "Block Grant" model and flexibility provided at a CMA level to assign/allocate funds within various program categories.
- Minimum funding guarantee of 24% of funds to Alameda County small operators (LAVTA and Union City Transit)

While we agree with several elements of the proposal, we also have some concerns and recommendations on other aspects of the proposal as noted below:

Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) performance requirements:

Alameda County has diverse transit needs and our transit operators deliver services to various parts of the county to meet those particular needs. Unfortunately, MTC's Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) performance requirements treats all operators similarly and fails to recognize specific contracting, staffing and delivery challenges of each individual operator. Although the memo states that MTC staff will work with CMAs and small operators to evaluate more appropriate metrics that suit small operators, to date no such discussions have been initiated by MTC staff, which is of concern, considering this proposal is due for approval later this month. Per the STA proposal regarding performance measures, Alameda CTC has adopted performance measures in our funding agreements for Measure BB transit operations. Therefore, Alameda CTC and transit operators in Alameda County expect to use the Alameda CTC adopted transit performance measures to fulfill this requirement. Regarding reporting we have concerns about the lack of clarity on the deliverables and reporting requirements expected from the CMAs.

Regional Means Based Program:

Alameda CTC has been successful in implementing the Measure BB funded Affordable Student Transit Pass Program, a means based fare program for students, in selected parts of Alameda County in conjunction with our various transit operators. We have completed almost two years of implementation and are embarking on the final year of this 3-year Pilot. In anticipation of launching this much needed program countywide, we are requesting MTC to designate the Alameda County Affordable Student Pass Program as a qualifying county means based program so that funds from MTC's contribution to a regional program are set aside and directed towards this program.

Alameda CTC appreciates MTC consideration on this proposal which supports transit needs in Alameda County. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 208-7400.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR L. DAO
Executive Director

cc: Alix Bockelman, Deputy Executive Director, Policy, MTC
Anne Richman, Director of Programming and Allocation, MTC
Tess Lengyel, Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Policy, Alameda CTC
Vivek Bhat, Director of Programming and Project Controls, Alameda CTC
Grace Crunican, General Manager, BART
Michael Hursh, General Manager, AC Transit
Michael Tree, Executive Director, LAVTA
Wilson Lee, Transit Manager, Union City Transit