

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

May 13, 2020

Agenda Item 7

MTC Resolution No. 4220, Revised

- Subject:** Revisions to MTC Resolution No. 4220, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- Background:** Policy Advisory Council Agenda Item 7, MTC Resolution No. 4220, Revised is attached. This report will be presented to the Programming and Allocations Committee on May 13, 2020.
- Staff will be at your May 13 meeting to discuss this report. The Council's input is requested.
- Attachments:** Agenda Item 5b from the May 13, 2020 Programming and Allocations Committee meeting

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Programming and Allocations Committee

May 13, 2020

Agenda Item 5b - 20-0728

MTC Resolution No. 4420, Revised

Subject: Revisions to MTC Resolution No. 4220, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Background: On April 22, 2020, the Commission approved the programming of more than \$780 million of federal funds to Bay Area transit agencies through the CARES Act. The distribution formula was developed through a partnership between MTC and Bay Area transit agencies and represents the first programming action (equivalent to 61%) for the roughly \$1.3 billion in CARES Act funding that is available. The remainder of the funding will be programmed in future months as further transit revenue impacts become clearer.

As part of the approval, the Commission directed staff to:

- 1) Finalize Principle 5 of the CARES Act funding guiding principles to inform the distribution of the remainder of the CARES Act funding (\$520 million or 39%);
- 2) Inventory transit agency safety efforts to protect the health of operators and transit riders; and
- 3) Establish a Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force to guide and inform the recovery of the Bay Area's public transit system and its role in the region's future – with a first priority providing input into the distribution of the CARES Act funding.

Funding Distribution - Principle 5

The first distribution of CARES Act funding was guided by four principles developed in consultation with transit operators. Principles 1 through 4 dealt with the need to act quickly to provide transit operators with funding to address revenue losses and costs arising from the COVID-19 crisis, and the need to allow flexibility in the distribution process to address changing circumstances and programming constraints. As staff reported at the April Commission meeting, a fifth principle was still in development that was intended to guide the distribution of the remainder of the CARES Act funding and a recommendation would be put forward in May at the Programming and Allocations Committee meeting.

There was significant interest from many stakeholders, including the Policy Advisory Council and SFMTA, in how the needs of transit-dependent passengers will be addressed as we develop the recovery plans in this financially stressed environment. Additionally, the Policy Advisory Council expressed an interest in exploring opportunities to ensure seamlessness and affordability for the customer. Staff took these comments into consideration in the development of its final recommendation and expect further consideration will be given to these areas through the work of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.

Staff's recommendation for Principle 5 proposes that "future distribution(s) – beyond the initial phase – will be subject to a comprehensive COVID-19 recovery strategy that considers any recommended regional adjustments to ensure network connectivity, financial sustainability, and transportation system equity." A proposed action related to Principle 5 includes the development of

a COVID 19 recovery strategy by each operator that addresses right-sizing of service and financial sustainability, with consideration of equity and the lifeline service needs of the most transit dependent riders. Further actions related to Principle 5 are expected to be guided and developed by the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, that is described in more detail below.

A full list of the CARES Act funding distribution principles can be found in Attachment A to MTC Resolution 4420.

Inventory of Transit Agency COVID-19 Related Safety Efforts

Staff is currently surveying each transit agency in the region to determine the type and extent of their efforts to protect the health and safety of their operators and riders, and expects to provide an initial report to Commissioners at the May 13th Programming and Allocations Committee meeting. Information will continue to be refined and communicated through the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

In response to the Commission's directive to establish a Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force to guide the recovery of public transit and its role in the region, MTC Chair Scott Haggerty established the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force and selected Commissioner Jim Sperring to serve as its chair. The Task Force will be composed of representatives of the MTC Commission, transit operators, and stakeholder groups (see Attachment A for the membership roster). The priorities of the panel are:


- 1) Determine the next CARES Act distribution formula and identify the categories to be funded.
- 2) Assess transit agency recovery strategies with an eye towards developing a regional approach to restoring ridership and stabilizing the transit network.
- 3) Provide recommendations for institutional and operational changes and evaluate MTC's future distribution of funds to transit operations

We believe this is a singular and urgent opportunity to convene the coalition of interests needed to lead the re-emergence of Bay Area public transit stronger, more connected, and more resilient in the wake of this crisis. Invitations have been sent out to the proposed Task Force members and the first meeting is being scheduled for late May.

Issues: None

Recommendation: Staff recommends Commission approval of MTC Resolution No. 4420, Revised

Attachment: Attachment A: Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Membership Roster
MTC Resolution No. 4420, Revised (Attachment A)


Therese W. McMillan

Attachment A

Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Membership Roster	
Invited	
Metropolitan Transportation Commission	
Chair Scott Haggerty Vice Chair Alfredo Pedroza Dave Cortese Nick Josefowitz Gina Papan David Rabbitt Jim Spering, Task Force Chair Amy Worth Therese W. McMillan, MTC Executive Director	
State of California	
State Senator Jim Beall <i>(or representative)</i> State Assembly Member David Chiu <i>(or representative)</i> CA State Transportation Agency Secretary David S. Kim <i>(or representative)</i>	
Transit Operators	
Michael Hursh, AC Transit Robert Powers, BART Rick Ramacier, CCCTA Denis Mulligan, GGBHTD Michael Tree, LAVTA Nancy Whelan, Marin Transit Jim Hartnett, SamTrans/Caltrain Jeffrey Tumlin, SFMTA Nuria Fernandez, VTA	
County Transportation Agencies	
Daryl Halls, BACTA Chair	
Stakeholders	
Labor Representative TransForm Seamless Bay Area Silicon Valley Community Foundation Bay Area Council Urban Habitat Disability advocacy representative/ Independent Resource Center of Contra Costa and Solano Counties MTC Policy Advisory Council	