

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways
Operations Committee**

June 12, 2020

Agenda Item 4f

Bay Area Freeway Service Patrol Request for Qualifications Bid Invitation

Subject: Information regarding the release of the Bay Area Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Request for Qualifications Bid Invitation (RFQBI) in July 2020. This RFQBI will result in a future recommendation to award FSP contracts.

Background: The Bay Area FSP program is in its 27th year of service. FSP continues to be a vital program in providing congestion relief by quickly clearing incidents during commute hours on the Bay Area's busiest freeways. MTC SAFE contracts with private tow operators to patrol segments of highways that are referred to as "beats." In 2018, this Committee approved a moderate expansion of FSP service with use of Senate Bill 1 Funding. Expanded FSP service was implemented in all nine Bay Area counties in 2018 and in 2020. MTC SAFE staff anticipates an increase in freeway congestion following the current pandemic; however, no further expansion is planned with this procurement.

Every two years, MTC SAFE releases a four-year FSP tow procurement for approximately half of its 27 beats. In past years, the Operations Committee has requested staff present information regarding the beats available for bid prior to formal release of the procurement. The 13 beats listed in Attachment A will be up for bid in July 2020. The RFQBI is a three-step process that:

1. Qualifies interested tow providers through experience and inspections.
2. Solicits bids from bidding tow providers meeting those requirements.
3. Recommends contract award to the bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid for a particular beat.

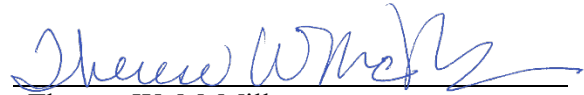
FSP Service levels are determined by MTC SAFE in consultation with FSP partners, California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and are based on analysis of various congestion metrics, program performance data, and field observation feedback from CHP and tow contractors. Staff monitors historical congestion patterns to ensure that FSP continues to be an effective congestion management program.

On March 18th, 2020, with the reduced traffic volumes due to COVID-19 stay at home orders, MTC SAFE worked closely with FSP contractors to modify the schedule and safely offer FSP services to assist essential travelers. The modified schedule is currently still in place and FSP will return to the normal schedule upon return of peak period traffic congestion.

The FSP Program is authorized by California Street & Highways Code Sections 2560-2565 and MTC/SAFE receives FSP dedicated funds from vehicle registration fees, the State Highway Account and Senate Bill 1 for this purpose. There is an expectation that sufficient funds set aside in unbilled grants, reserves and future grants will fully fund the planned towing services in this contract period. Should revenues fall short of expectations due to budgetary impacts caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the FSP program will reduce service levels commensurate with revised revenue estimates.

Recommendation: Information only. Staff plans to release the RFQBI in July 2020. The four-year tow contract recommendations resulting from the RFQBI will be presented to this Committee for approval in October 2020 with service to commence in July 2021.

Attachments: Attachment A: Freeway Service Patrol Map showing beats available for bid



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July 2020 RFQBI FSP Beats Available for Bid

