

**TRANSIT RECOVERY
TASK FORCE**

TO: Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

DATE: June 29, 2020

FR: Steve Kinsey, CivicKnit

RE: BRTRTF Meeting #2 Summary

Mutual Understanding from Task Force Meeting #2

- 1) The Task Force decision process was approved.**
- 2) Shared transit safety protocols, with scalable standards will be adaptively managed to reflect evolving studies.**
- 3) Network coordination at a regional level is an essential part of Recovery planning.**
- 4) There is insufficient funding to resume all pre-COVID services at this time.**
- 5) Most agencies' CARES Act funds will be fully spent before the end of 2020.**
- 6) CARES Act Phase 2 funding should prioritize services for vulnerable and transit-dependent riders.**
- 7) CARES Act Phase 2 funding should be needs-based and address formula limitations in Phase 1.**

Additional Information requested during Task Force Meeting #2

- 1) Better understanding of recent and planned survey activities and results.**
- 2) Operators' final Health and Safety Plan**
- 3) Transit recovery plans for senior, disabled, paratransit, and school services**
- 4) How agency recovery plans address coordinated, regional network connections**
- 5) More developed CARES Phase 2 funding analysis, and an MTC staff recommendation that builds from Option 2b.**

Meeting Summary

Chair Sperring briefly explained the importance of two Consent Agenda items:

- The decision-making process the Task Force will utilize, and
- BRTRTF Meeting#1 Summary notes, including mutual understandings

Operator representatives of both the large and smaller transit agencies presented their coordinated efforts to develop a network-wide health and safety plan. They will provide their completed plan for the June 29th BRTRTF meeting, which they characterized as an adaptive document describing shared protocols with scalable standards that reflect agency size, to be modified as best practices evolve.

Smaller operators appreciated being included in the planning. Scalability of larger system practices, cost, and standards enforcement remain to be resolved.

Secretary Kim expressed interest in information related to social distancing on transit, because current standards are considered infeasible to maintain over an extended time period.

Task Force members requested more information about the various surveys that have been completed or are underway. What group(s) were surveyed, what information was sought, how have survey results been used, and what additional surveys are planned? Input from more riders, drivers, and paratransit users was suggested by some Task force members.

MTC staff provided context and background on revenue and ridership profiles and pandemic impacts. CARES Act funds will not stabilize agency budgets beyond the end of the year at pre-COVID service levels; therefore, pre-COVID service levels are not fiscally feasible without additional resources.

Large and smaller operator representatives explained the variables and the uncertainty in their near-term recovery planning. The operators stated that targeting vulnerable and transit-dependent riders and ensuring a base level of service for essential trips is their mutual priority.

They are coordinating their planning through 4 specific work groups-

- fiscal,
- safety
- operations
- communications

The operators identified several ways that MTC could be supportive, including

- coordination of a regional message supporting transit
- centralizing survey efforts
- accelerating fare technology projects, and
- advancing transit priority construction projects on bridge corridors.

Additional information on core network and connectivity elements of recovery planning was suggested by some speakers. Coordination with public health officers was encouraged.

MTC staff presented two allocation options for CARES Phase 2 funds, each with an equity alternative. Task force comments favored the Option 2 approach, and support incorporating an equity incentive in the distribution. After further review and discussion with operators, MTC will present a distribution recommendation at the next meeting.

Task Force / Next Steps

The next Task Force meeting will be on June 29th, from 2-4PM. Follow-up information on Near-term recovery planning will be presented, followed by review and action on a CARES Phase 2 recommendation for submittal to the MTC Commission.

The July Task Force meeting will provide the opportunity to consider the topics and activities that are necessary to inclusively develop a *Bay Area Public Transit Transformation Plan*.