

From: [Martha Silver](#)
To: [Martha Silver](#)
Subject: Workplan item request, equity and access subcommittee
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 3:34:06 PM

From: Adina Levin <alevin@alevin.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 3:18 PM
To: Martha Silver <MSilver@bayareametro.gov>
Cc: Kì-Nam Miller <kmiller@bayareametro.gov>; Marti Paschal <mpaschal@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Workplan item request, equity and access subcommittee

External Email

Dear Equity and Access Subcommittee Chair, Vice-Chair and Staff,

Following is a request for an item to be considered for the Equity and Access workplan.

This item complements the topics of fare equity that the group is considering. There is a state initiative called CalITP that is working on providing “open payment” technology for fare payment.

Clipper is currently a “closed payment” system meaning that you can use a Clipper card only to pay for transit. Cash that is put on a Clipper card cannot be used for other things, which is difficult if you have put \$20 on a Clipper card but need money for food.

“Open Payments” means the ability to use multi-purpose cards to pay for transit. This could potentially be implemented in a way that is beneficial for low-income people in a few different ways:

- Use the same CalFresh card as used for food benefits to pay for transit
- Use a pre-paid debit card that you can buy at a e.g. a pharmacy to pay for transit as well as food and any other purposes, for people who are unbanked/underbanked, or use pre-paid cards to manage budgets
- Use an existing debit/credit card to pay for transit, for people who are low-income but have access to debit/credit cards, and do not want to have money locked up that can only be used for transit

MTC staff working on Clipper 2.0 have said that the implementation of Open Payments would need to wait until 2023 when Clipper 2.0 is first rolled out. This is understandable given the technical issues.

However, MTC staff said in a recent staff report at the Clipper Executive Board that Open Payments would primarily benefit tourists.

<https://mtc.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4597559&GUID=1CC43C16-B49A-4E08-B9BD-B912893993A1&Options=&Search=>

Given the examples that I provided above, I do think that there could be a variety of potentially significant benefits for low-income people with a variety of different needs. This could be a good issue for this group to request an agenda item to have staff to prepare and for the group to discuss.

Thank you for your consideration

Best,
Adina
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