

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Operations Committee

October 9, 2020

Agenda Item 6b

Clipper® START Update

Subject: Update on the Clipper START Means-Based Transit Discount Program.

Background: The Clipper START program is the first of its kind in the region, with the goals of improving transportation affordability and increasing access to opportunity for adult transit passengers who earn a lower income. The program is a 12- to 18-month pilot offering a 20 or 50 percent discount on single-ride fares for eligible adults who earn under 200 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$52,000 for a family of four).

Four agencies are participating in the initial launch: the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), offering a 20 percent discount; and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Power Board (PCJPB/Caltrain); Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transit District (GGBHTD); and San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA)- each providing a 50 percent discount. MTC is subsidizing half of the 20% discount, with operators covering the remainder. Operators providing more than a 20% discount will pay the difference for their remainder of revenue loss.

The pilot launched on July 15, 2020 and through August 31 had received 803 applications and approved 771 applications. Table 1 shows county of origin for the applicants by percentage. Table 2 shows trips taken by agency.

Table 1: County of Origin, by Percentage

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Alameda | 16% |
| Contra Costa | 9% |
| Marin | 3% |
| Napa | <1% |
| San Francisco | 59% |
| San Mateo | 5% |
| Santa Clara | 5% |
| Solano | 1% |
| Sonoma | 2% |
| Total | 100% |

Table 2: Clipper START Trips, by Agency

| | BART | Caltrain | Golden Gate Transit | Muni | Total |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| July | 92 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 117 |
| August | 290 | 14 | 17 | 119 | 440 |
| Total | 382 | 17 | 29 | 129 | 557 |

Pilot Program Expansion

MTC Resolution No. 4320 established the framework for the Regional Means-Based Transit Fare Pilot Program in May 2018. In response to COVID-19, interest by the MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, and requests by transit operators, MTC Commission approved MTC Resolution No. 4420, which included approximately \$5 million for the expansion of the pilot beyond the four original participating transit operators.

Seventeen additional operators are interested in joining the pilot program, as listed in Attachment A. Note that all large operators, with the exception of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), have indicated interest in joining the regional program. VTA currently offers two VTA-specific means-based discount programs: UPLIFT and the Transit Assistance Program (TAP). While there is conceptual agreement between MTC and operator staff concerning the additional operators joining the pilot program, each operator's program participation is subject to the approval of its governing board. Transit operator launch dates will be staggered depending on board approvals and Title VI analyses.

Issues: None.

Recommendation: Information only.

Attachments: Attachment A: Transit Operators Interested in Joining Clipper® START Pilot FY2020-21 through FY2021-22


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**Transit Operators Interested in Joining Clipper® START Pilot
FY2020-21 through FY2021-22**

Table 1 below lists transit operators *interested* in participating in the Clipper START Pilot. Operators may withdraw from the list; however, no new transit operators may be added. Actual participation in the Clipper START Pilot is contingent on transit operator board approval, compliance with the Regional Means-Based Framework, and consistency with the current FTA Title VI requirements.

**Table 1: Transit Operator Interest with Level of Discount
(as of September 9, 2020)**

| 20% Discount | 50% Discount |
|---|---|
| Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) | Marin Transit |
| County Connection | Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) |
| Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST) | San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (San Francisco Ferry) |
| Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) | |
| Napa VINE | |
| Petaluma Transit | |
| San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) | |
| Santa Rosa CityBus | |
| Solano County Transit (SolTrans) | |
| Sonoma County Transit | |
| Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority (Tri Delta Transit) | |
| Union City Transit | |
| Vacaville – City Coach | |
| Western Contra Costa Transportation Authority (WestCAT) | |
| Subtotal: 14 | Subtotal: 3 |
| Total: 17 | |