October 14, 2020   **Agenda Item 8**

Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Update

Subject: Update on the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.

Background: A presentation for Policy Advisory Council Agenda Item 8, Update on the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, will be provided to the Policy Advisory Council before its October 14, 2020 meeting.

                                  Staff will be at your October 14 meeting to discuss the presentation. The Council's input is requested.

Attachments: Attachment A: PowerPoint

BLUE RIBBON

TRANSIT RECOVERY
TASK FORCE

BLUE RIBBON TRANSIT RECOVERY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Policy Advisory Council
October 14, 2020

BLUE RIBBON
TRANSIT RECOVERY
TASK FORCE

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

TASK FORCE STAGE THREE PURPOSE

By mid-2021, the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force shall submit a **Bay Area Public Transit Transformation Action Plan** to the Commission for its consideration and possible adoption.

The Plan should identify actions needed to **re-shape the region's transit system into a more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused mobility network across the entire Bay Area and beyond**.
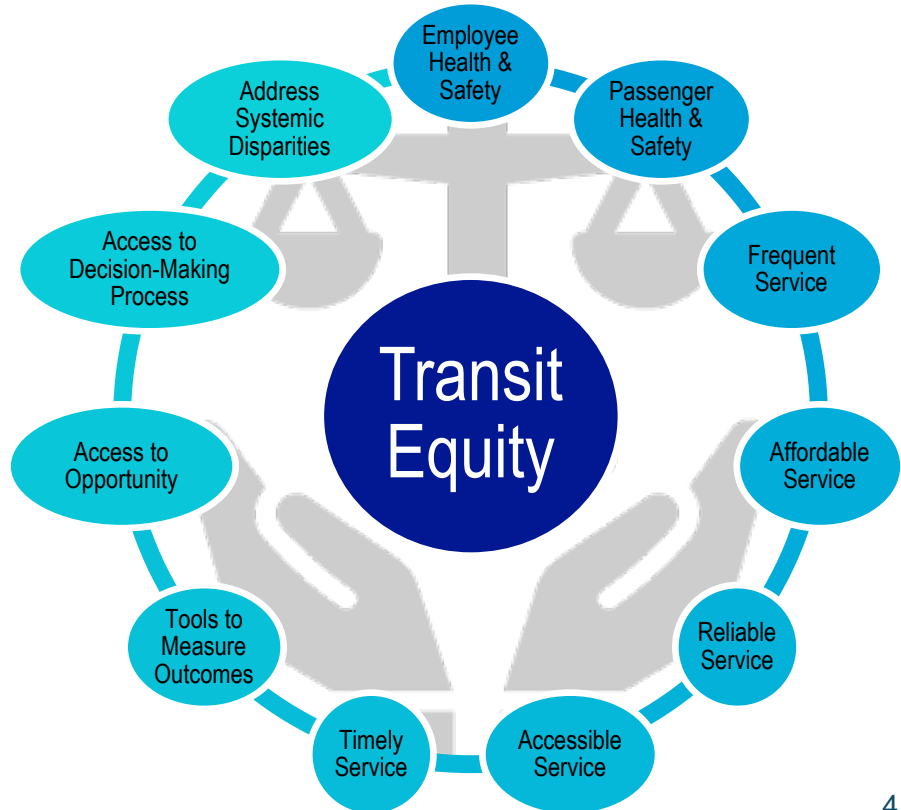

Standardized fares
Free transit
Express bus
Rail
Affordable fares
First/last mile
Walking & biking opportunities
VMT reduction
Connectivity
Paratransit
Governance
Equity
TDM
Funding
Bold & unflinching
Federal and state regulations
New mobility options
Transit priority/advantage

EQUITY IS KEY TO TRANSFORMATION

Equity is not a side topic related to recovery — it is foundational to a just transit network

- This work must be guided by riders, communities, and community-based organizations (CBOs)
  - Riders during the pandemic (short/local essential trips)
  - Opportunities to use surveys
  - Partnerships with CBOs

Transit Equity

- Employee Health & Safety
- Passenger Health & Safety
- Frequent Service
- Affordable Service
- Reliable Service
- Accessible Service
- Timely Service
- Tools to Measure Outcomes
- Access to Opportunity
- Access to Decision-Making Process
- Address Systemic Disparities

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CONCURRENT REGIONAL EFFORTS WITH TRANSIT LINKAGES

Clipper Executive Board

- o Clipper business operations
- o Clipper START
- o Clipper Next Gen
- o RTC Discount Card

Fare Integration Task Force

- o Study kick-off in early 2020
- o Identify regional fare coordination and integration strategies

Partnership Board

- o Quick Complete Streets
- o Data requirements
- o Technology platforms
- o Mobility Options

MTC Plans with Intersecting Activities

- o Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
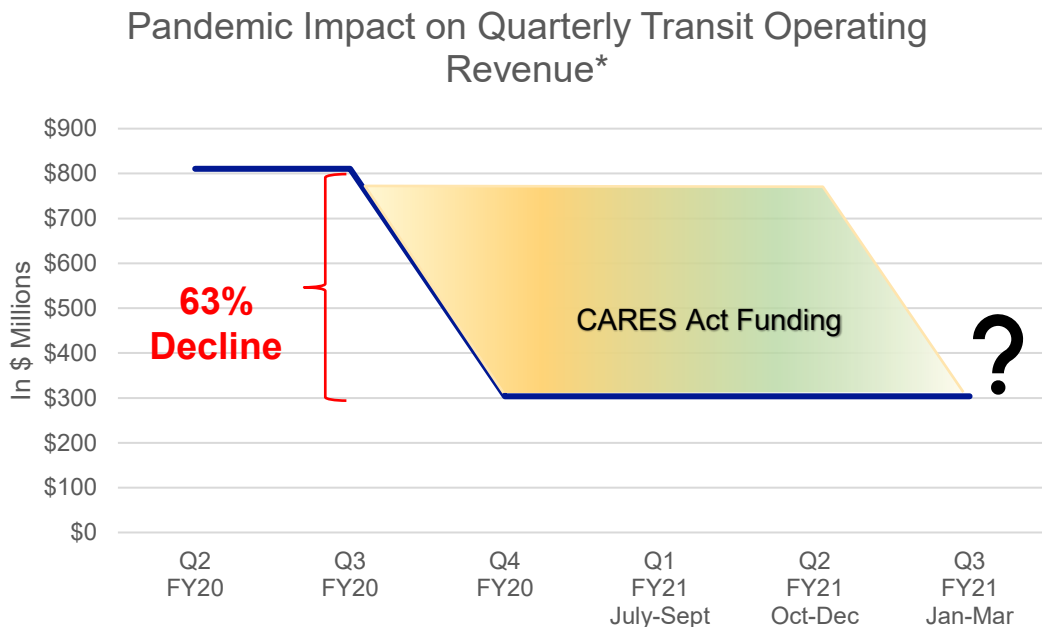- o Plan Bay Area 2050
- o MTC's Equity Platform

Regional Mapping, Wayfinding & Public Information Workshops

- o Effort aims to make it easier to navigate the Bay Area using public transit
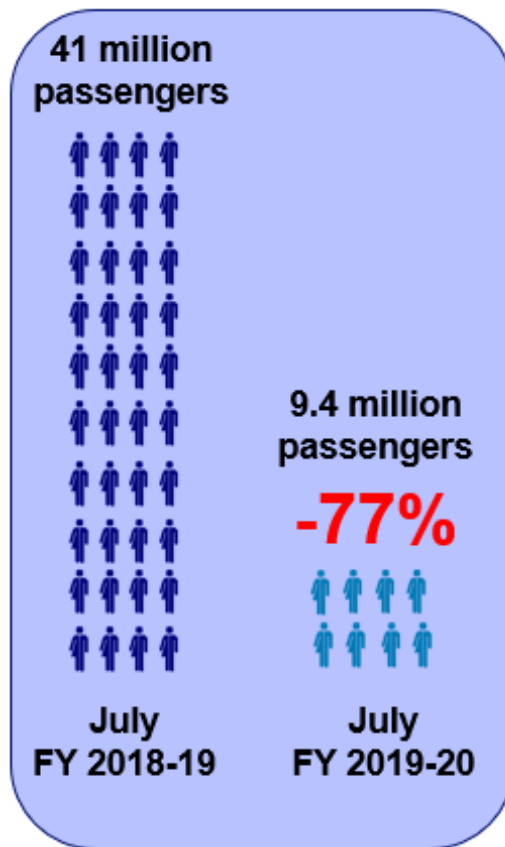- o System concept and business case under development

BATA Recovery Ad Hoc Working Group

- o Address constrained revenue outlook for Rehab
- o Address transit capacity constraints plus likely increase in driving

TRANSIT CHALLENGED BY RIDERSHIP AND REVENUE DECLINES

Pandemic Impact on Quarterly Transit Operating Revenue*

63% Decline

CARES Act Funding

?

In $ Millions: $0 – $900

Q2 FY20 | Q3 FY20 | Q4 FY20 | Q1 FY21 July-Sept | Q2 FY21 Oct-Dec | Q3 FY21 Jan-Mar

41 million passengers

9.4 million passengers

-77%

July FY 2018-19 | July FY 2019-20

*Based on average quarterly revenue for FY 2018-19 and estimates of monthly revenue losses developed for the CARES Act funding distribution (March through August). Assumes economy does not begin recovery before January 2021.

TRANSIT AGENCY CHALLENGES

Transformation requires addressing the issues that the transit agencies can control.

Transit Service Issues

- **Issue #1 System Design** – Divergent priorities and limited resources

- **Issue #2 System Performance** – Slower and less reliable service results in a less favorable customer experience

- **Issue #3 System Expansion** – Projects have fragmented planning, lack consensus and are costly and slow to develop

- **Issue #4 Fares and Payments** - Complex to administer, and little consistency and coordination; must be equitable and not a barrier to low-income riders

- **Issue #5 Information & Marketing** – Information is inconsistent, uncoordinated and irregularly updated. Customers rely on 3rd parties for travel information

TRANSFORMATION IN STAGES

Transformation will occur in stages and is limited by fiscal realities. Blueprint (long-term) stage will require new funding.

Baseline (Near-Term)

- Coordinated service planning
- Common planning tools
- Improve 511 convenience
- Develop hierarchy of service and connection improvements
- Complete existing fare study
- Low-cost innovations

Blueprint (Long-Term)

- Regional signage and branding
- Transit priority infrastructure
- New set of performance standards
- Modernize fare and payment collection
- Affordable fare subsidies
- System expansion
- Comprehensive Operations Analysis
- Regional Express Bus

TRANSIT CHALLENGES – SPECTRUM OF SYSTEM MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Non-binding Coordination
- Working group(s) or technical advisory committee(s) for staff from individual operators to meet and coordinate on issues of common interest, such as network management
- Participation typically optional and operators are generally not bound by the decisions

Binding Coordination
- Clipper Executive Board model
- Could be extended to other areas or functions, by creating coordinating entities similar to the CEB or even a single coordinating entity that functions as a Regional Transit Coordinator or Network Manager
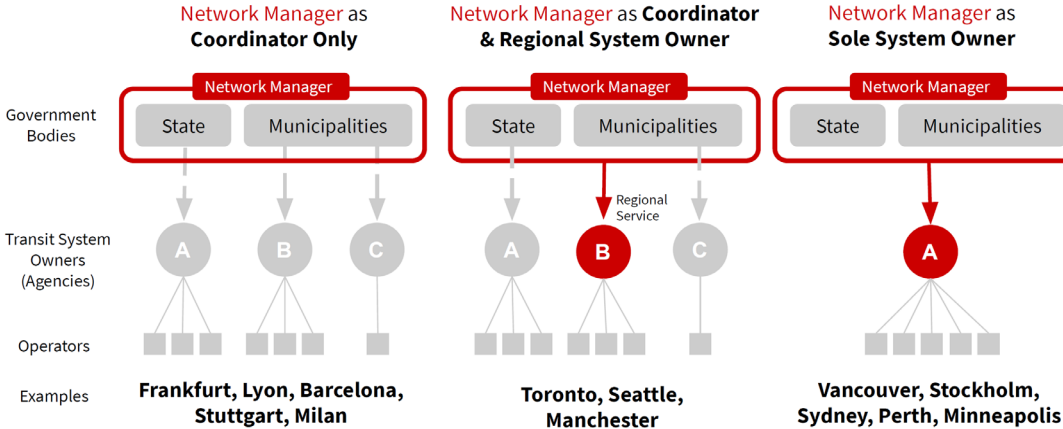- Functional Coordination

Agency Consolidation
- Fewer agencies based on criteria such as regional mode or geography
- Deepest level of integration beyond functional consolidation
- Implementation could involve significant challenges and tradeoffs

Stage 3: A Public Transit Transformation Action Plan

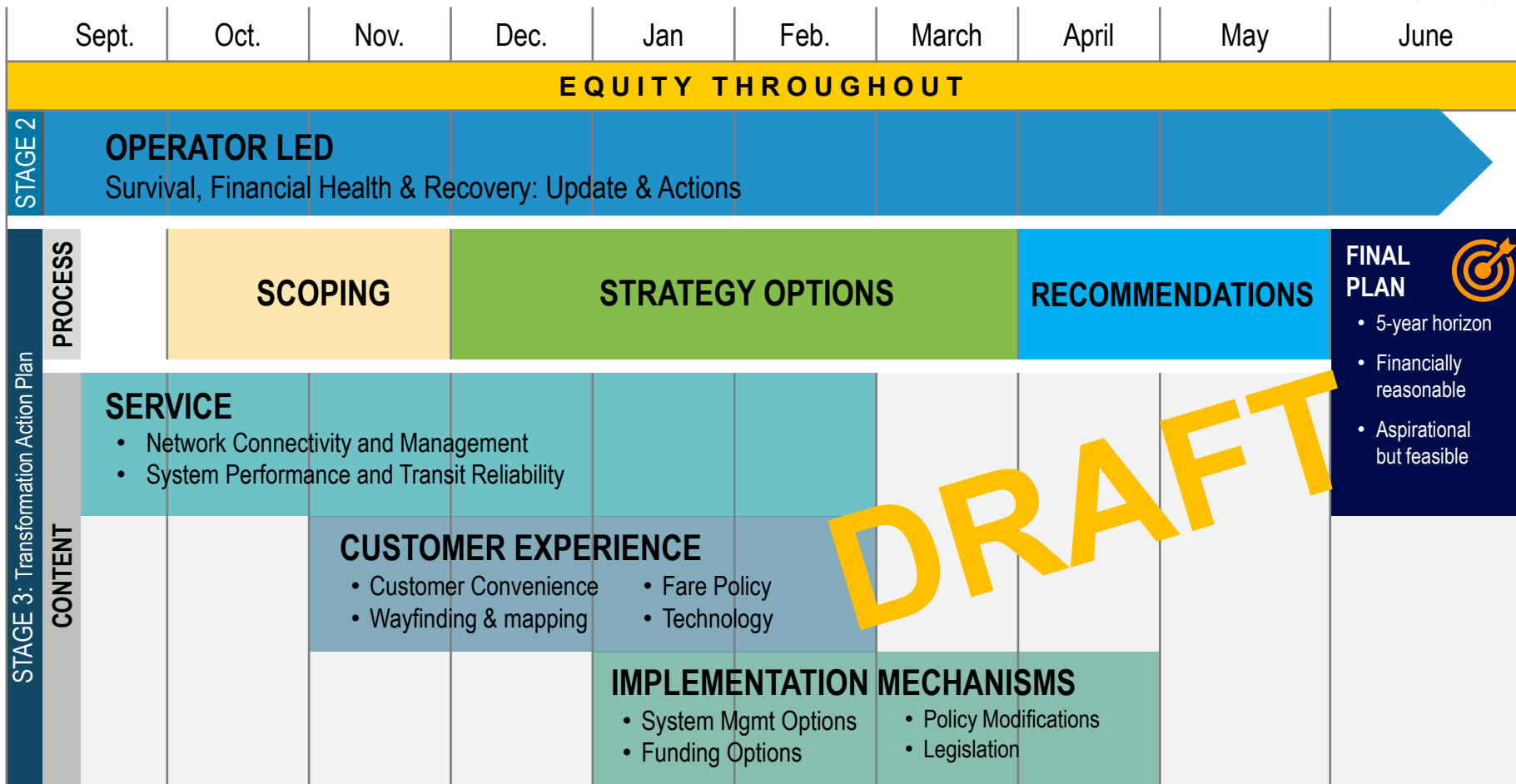Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

September 14, 2020

Based on forthcoming research from DeRobertis, et. al. "Characteristics of Effective Metropolitan Areawide Public Transit" 2020

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan	Feb.	March	April	May	June

EQUITY THROUGHOUT

STAGE 2

OPERATOR LED
Survival, Financial Health & Recovery: Update & Actions

STAGE 3: Transformation Action Plan

PROCESS

SCOPING | **STRATEGY OPTIONS** | **RECOMMENDATIONS**

FINAL PLAN
- 5-year horizon
- Financially reasonable
- Aspirational but feasible

CONTENT

SERVICE
- Network Connectivity and Management
- System Performance and Transit Reliability

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE
- Customer Convenience
- Wayfinding & mapping
- Fare Policy
- Technology

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS
- System Mgmt Options
- Funding Options
- Policy Modifications
- Legislation
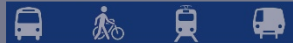
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BLUE RIBBON
TRANSIT RECOVERY
TASK FORCE

OCTOBER MEETING PREVIEW

OCTOBER <u>DRAFT</u> AGENDA

- Stage 2 Near Term Recovery

  - Transit Operations Funding Update

  - Survey Synthesis and Next Steps

- Stage 3 Transformation Action Plan Scoping

  - Discussion of Goals and Objectives

  - Feedback and input from TF Members on Obstacles to Achieving

    Goals/Objectives