

# Metropolitan Transportation Commission

## Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee

July 9, 2021

Agenda Item 4

### FasTrak START Program Pilot Update

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**Subject:** Update on the FasTrak START Program Pilot of a means-based toll discount on MTC's Interstate 880 (I-880) Express Lanes with a focus on the draft concept, a customer research update and the draft evaluation plan.

**Background:** The FasTrak START pilot is, nationally, a first-of-its-kind effort to address affordability of express lane tolls for residents earning a low-income. The pilot responds to policymaker, advocate, and public comments received about express lanes: during the project performance evaluation phase of Plan Bay Area 2050; at Commission and Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee meetings; and at public hearings to amend the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority's (BAIFA) toll ordinance for I-880 and the Interstate 680 Express Lanes extension. The FasTrak START pilot will leverage the systems, services, and lessons from Clipper<sup>®</sup> START<sup>SM</sup>, the means-based transit fare discount program launched in July 2020 by MTC.

Staff began consulting with this Subcommittee on its pilot plans in June 2020, where it received feedback on the initial pilot concept. In October 2020, staff addressed some of the June feedback, and solicited the Subcommittee's preferred location for the pilot given budget constraints and based on a variety of selection criterion. Several Subcommittee members voiced support to pilot on MTC's I-880 Express Lanes. Staff informed the BAIFA of its plans for an 18-month pilot on the I-880 Express Lanes with start-up costs of up to \$3.0 million in December 2020. BAIFA's support was enthusiastic. In April 2021, staff got feedback from this Subcommittee on its plans for stakeholder and customer engagement.

At its July 2021 meeting, staff will continue to address Subcommittee feedback. Staff will present a draft concept for how the pilot will work and a draft plan to evaluate the pilot for feedback. Staff will also provide a customer research update.

#### June 22, 2020 - Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee

<https://mtc.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=791713&GUID=AA120D8B-8F93-48F5-A4D3-FAA75BB0EA68&Options=info|&Search=>

#### October 29, 2020 - Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee

<https://mtc.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=806684&GUID=69127204-B7CE-4354-8D78-C3E0051F2193&Options=info|&Search=>

#### April 5, 2021 - Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee

<https://mtc.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=827662&GUID=67020849-2F9F-4331-8FAF-6A526D1941CD&Options=info|&Search=>

**Attachments:**  
**Attachment A:** Draft Concept PowerPoint  
**Attachment B:** Customer Research Update PowerPoint  
**Attachment C:** Draft Evaluation Plan PowerPoint