

Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group

November 19, 2024

Agenda Item 4b

Update on Regional Transit Priority Initiatives

Subject:

Update on various Bay Area Transit Priority initiatives and the Transit Transformation Action Plan.

Transit Transformation Action Plan – Transit Priority Efforts:

The suite of transit priority efforts in the Transit Transformation Action Plan (TAP) is one of the three top priorities of the TAP. The initiatives in the TAP expand upon longstanding and established transit priority efforts at MTC, including the Forward Commute Initiatives (see [presentation to RNM Committee on November 8, 2024](#)) and Transit Performance Initiative.

While these efforts are led by MTC, they require close coordination between MTC and partner agencies including Caltrans, transit operators, county transportation agencies, and local jurisdictions. These partnerships are critical to develop a common understanding of and vision for transit priority in the Bay Area, and to more effectively plan and deliver transit priority projects. Staff will provide an overview of related transit priority program efforts.

Regional Transit Priority Policy:

MTC is developing a regional Transit Priority Policy (Policy) to support and promote faster, more reliable transit that moves more people in the Bay Area. In December 2023, MTC kicked off this effort with a workshop attended by various partner agencies including transit operators, county transportation agencies, Caltrans, local jurisdictions, and transit advocacy organizations. In early 2024, MTC convened a Policy Development Working Group – consisting of a subset of workshop attendees – to help guide the development of a Policy approach. The approach includes development of a standalone Policy emphasizing the importance of transit priority to the region, in conjunction with updates to the existing MTC Complete Streets Policy, which is tied to regional discretionary funding (One Bay Area Grant funding). In support of the Policy, staff will also conduct a Regional Transit Assessment to analyze existing transit speed and reliability data and develop a Transit Priority Network on which the Policy applies. Policy adoption and updates to the Complete Streets Checklist are anticipated by early 2026.

Caltrans Bay Area Transit Plan:

MTC coordinates regularly with partner agencies like Caltrans District 4 to ensure a common understanding of and vision for transit priority in the Bay Area, and to more effectively plan and deliver transit priority projects. One effort MTC and District 4 are coordinating on is District 4's Bay Area Transit Plan (Plan), a first-of-its-kind plan which serves to identify infrastructure improvements that improve transit reliability, access to transit, and encourage more transit use along the State Transportation Network (STN) in the Bay Area. The Plan will also identify district-level best practices and strategies to support transit. The Plan is anticipated to be finalized by mid-2025.

IDEA TSP and BusAID Funding Programs:

The Bay Area has over 3,500 miles of arterials, many of which carry heavy traffic and experience significant congestion during the weekday peak periods. The IDEA TSP program is a regional initiative to provide support to cities, counties and transit agencies to develop and implement transit signal priority along their arterials to make transit faster and more reliable. Staff interviewed 16 transit agencies and cities to assess their technical assistance needs. Staff found a need for development support for smaller jurisdictions and systems integration support for larger jurisdictions.

This round of IDEA TSP will provide technical assistance support to cities, counties, and transit agencies through MTC-led consultant services contracts to develop transit signal priority projects and other related improvements along and/or crossing arterials. The call for projects was released on June 21, 2024.

Five applications were received and reviewed by a panel including staff from MTC, Caltrans, and AC Transit. The panel recommended funding all applications submitted, shown in Table 1.

BusAID is a Transit Transformation Action Plan initiative to reduce transit travel times and improve transit reliability through near-term, quick-build solutions. In May 2024, approximately \$18 million was awarded to eight projects sponsored by six different transit agencies and local jurisdictions (Round 1).

This summer, in conjunction with the IDEA TSP call for technical assistance, a second BusAID call for projects was released (i.e., Round 1.2). This round of funding was treated as a

continuation of Round 1 and was limited to transit operators that were invited to secondary screening in the spring but were not ready to proceed with secondary screening at that time. It was also limited to operators that had not reached a \$5 million total funding cap in the spring. One application was received and reviewed by a panel including staff from MTC, Caltrans, and AC Transit. The panel recommended funding the application submitted, shown in Table 1.

The panel recommended funding all IDEA TSP and BusAID Round 1.2 applications:

Table 1. IDEA TSP and BusAID Project Funding Recommendations

| Agency | Project | County | Recommended Award |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------|
| IDEA TSP | | | |
| CCTA | Danville/Hartz/San Ramon Coordinated Adaptive Traffic Signals | Contra Costa | \$ 250,000 |
| TAM | Marin Countywide Signal Modernization | Marin | \$ 500,000 |
| County Connection | Four Corridors TSP | Contra Costa | \$ 200,000 |
| SamTrans | Countywide TSP Program | San Mateo | \$ 700,000 |
| City of San José | TSP Evaluation & Signal Retiming | Santa Clara | \$ 300,000 |
| Total – IDEA TSP | | | \$ 1,950,000 |
| BusAID Round 1.2 | | | |
| SamTrans | El Camino Real Corridor-Wide Project Initiation Document (PID) | San Mateo | \$2,000,000 |
| Total – BusAID | | | \$ 2,000,000 |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 3,950,000 |

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

Attachment A: Presentation