

Clipper® Executive Board Fare Integration Task Force

April 24, 2023

Agenda Item 4a

Clipper® START Pilot Update

Subject:

Staff will present key evaluation results of the Clipper START means-based transit fare discount program pilot and proposed recommendations for extending the pilot program beyond the current sunset date of June 2023.

Background:

In May 2018, the Commission adopted Resolution No. 4320, establishing the framework for the Regional Means-Based Transit Fare Pilot Program. Branded as Clipper START, the regional means-based transit fare discount program seeks to increase access to opportunity and improve transportation affordability for adult transit passengers who earn a lower income. The Clipper START program was the first of its kind in the region.

The three-year pilot program was launched on July 15, 2020, with transit agencies offering a 20 or 50 percent discount on single-ride fares for eligible adults who earn at or under 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). MTC sets aside funding annually to administer the program and to defray a portion of operators' revenue losses. Additionally, a pilot program evaluation was conducted to assess program delivery components and impacts on advancing equity to learn and continually improve the program.

Preliminary results of pilot have been shared with transit operator staff, with the technical memo to be available in May 2023. At the April Fare Integration Task Force meeting, MTC staff will present pilot program recommendations based on findings from the evaluation. As the region continues to advance the Clipper START program, a commitment for close collaboration between MTC and operators is essential for a cohesive and more impactful program.

Next Steps:

Based on input from technical working groups, Equity and Access Subcommittee, and the Fare Integration Task Force, MTC staff anticipates bringing a recommendation on pilot program to the Commission in May.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation

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