

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee Committee

March 22, 2024

Agenda Item 4b

MTC's Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program

Subject:

Update of MTC's CARE Cycle 1 – Power-Building and Engagement Program (Category 3)
Proposed Approach for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 through FY 2025-26.

Background:

MTC's CARE Program, the successor to the Lifeline Transportation Program, is a new funding program that supports transportation-based capacity building, technical assistance, and participatory budgeting for Equity Priority Communities in the nine-county Bay Area region. In November 2023, MTC Resolution No. 4604 was approved with the target programming amount of \$21.5 million for FY 2022-23 through FY 2025-26. Administered by MTC, CARE enables community-rooted and cross-sectional partners (i.e., transit/transportation, health, social services, education, etc.) to deliver on high-priority, community-level initiatives and to deepen their relationships to develop the processes, plans, and projects that will drive and sustain transformative transit/transportation mobility, housing, and climate action. There are three grant program "categories" within CARE: Category 1) Community Based Transportation Project Development; Category 2) High-Priority Neighborhood Project Implementation – Participatory Budgeting; and Category 3) Community Power-Building and Engagement (Pb+E). This update focuses on the advancement of Category 3 (Pb+E). Categories 1 and 2 are planned to be advanced pending update on REAP 2.0 funding status.

Power-building and Engagement (Pb+E) – Category 3 Proposed Approach

With support from local MTC CARE funds, the Power-Building and Engagement Program provides \$1.5 million in funding to eligible applicants to implement strategies to improve mobility, affordability, and safety through community engagement projects and cross-sector partnerships. Pb+E funding broadly aims to: grow community leadership and civic engagement, foster inclusive multisector collaboration between public agencies and community-based organizations; and enable intersectional leadership to implement projects impacting mobility and

community well-being. The program recognizes community-based transportation investments as a foundational element of thriving, healthy communities.

Program Strategies: Funds will be disbursed to support three mutually reinforcing strategies. Funds will enable:

1. **Projects:** Community-rooted and grassroots efforts to implement projects that cultivate community resilience;
2. **Partnerships:** Local government and community-based organizations to build partnerships for collective leadership and coordinated action to improve mobility, affordability, and safety; and
3. **Learning:** Capacity building with and for grassroots, community-based organizations, and local government agencies to collaborate to enact holistic efforts around transportation and community well-being.

Community-Centered Design: To ensure community needs are informing Pb+E key elements regarding funding and capacity building, the Power-Building and Engagement Program Cycle 1 will support the launch of a program-level Community Advisory Working Group (CAWG) who will contribute through a participatory, community engaged process. The CAWG is envisioned to inform Pb+E goals, design, identify capacity building/learning/training needs; and support outreach to amplify the reach and impact of Pb+E funding.

Guidelines

- **Administration.** CARE Pb+E will be administered by MTC and supported by county transportation agencies (CTAs).
- **Funding Availability.** A total of \$1.5 million will be available for CARE Pb+E for eligible initiatives conducted by MTC and coordinated with CARE Program Liaisons in each county, with critical input from the CAWG. All funded projects must meet the eligibility requirements of the respective funding source and the CARE Program.

Timeline:

The anticipated timeline for Pb+E Cycle 1 Development and the Call for Projects process is as follows:

Action	Anticipated Date*
Commission action on Cycle 1 Program Guidelines Approval	November 15, 2023 (completed)
MTC launches Invitation for Community Advisory Working Group (CAWG) to inform PB+E Program - Application Due - Notification of Involvement	April 4, 2024 April 19, 2024 April 26, 2024
MTC launches Call for Projects for CARE Pb+E (Category 3)	June 2024
Application deadline to submit an eligible project(s) to MTC	August 2024
MTC Commission approval of Program of Projects	September 24, 2024
Project sponsors awarded funds	October 2024

*All dates subject to change.

Next Steps

Staff will solicit government stakeholder feedback, launch CAWG membership solicitation, and prepare outreach materials to support the Call for Projects process. Staff will return to this Subcommittee in the summer of 2024 to provide an overall CARE update and share progress on Category 3: Power-Building and Engagement.

Issues:

None.

Recommendations:

Information.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: PowerPoint