

Regional Network Management – Customer Advisory Group

February 23, 2024

Agenda Item 5b

Fare Integration Update

Subject:

Project staff will present a progress update on the first two elements of the Fare Policy Vision Statement – the Clipper BayPass Pilot and the Reduced/No-Cost Transfer Policy.

Background:

In November 2021, the Fare Integration Task Force adopted the Fare Policy Vision Statement directing staff to pilot a regional institutional pass product. In August 2022, the first phase of the Clipper® BayPass pilot was launched to pilot an unlimited-use product at four higher education institutions – the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), San Francisco State University (SFSU), San Jose State University (SJSU), and Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) – and at 12 MidPen affordable housing properties.

Phase 1 of the pilot is scheduled to end on June 30, 2024. Discussions are ongoing with partner institutions and transit operator staff to determine an appropriate approach for engaging with Phase 1 partners beyond June 30, 2024. The project team anticipates on providing an update to the Fare Integration Task Force in March 2024.

Phase 2 of the pilot has formally launched with the first three institutions – the University of California – San Francisco, the City of Menlo Park, and Alameda Transportation Management Association. These partnerships will provide nearly 8,000 people with access to unlimited regional travel on Bay Area transit services. As with Phase 1, the project team will closely monitor impacts to transit use, travel patterns, and attitudes and perceptions of transit. The project team also continues to recruit for additional partners for Phase 2, which will include up to a total of 10 institutions, with a combined total 20,000 individuals per a Participation Agreement between MTC and transit operators.

The Reduced/No-Cost Transfer Policy is slated to launch with the Next Generation Clipper System in Summer 2024. Under this policy, riders transferring between two agencies on Clipper receive a discount of up to \$2.50 within two hours of their first tag. To fund the pilot, transit agencies fund the first 50¢ of the discount, and MTC will reimburse the remainder of foregone

revenue for 18-24 months, with the duration dependent on available funding. Staff circulated a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) for agency feedback and plan to seek endorsement of the final version at the Fare Integration Task Force meeting in Spring 2024, after which agency staff will seek Board approvals to authorize participation in the Reduced/No-Cost Transfer Policy.

A team of staff from MTC and BART is also working to support completion of the Title VI fare equity analysis required for these pilot fare programs. Consulting firm WSP is providing support for the Clipper BayPass Phase 1 Title VI fare equity analysis for MTC with expected completion in February. Staff has procured consultant support for Title VI analyses of the remaining fare integration pilots and is working to convene a staff working group from participating agencies to gather input and establish a work plan ensuring compliance with all applicable laws under Title VI.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information Item Only.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation