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February 1, 2012

RE: Call for Projects for Transit Performance Initiative (TPI) – Major Corridors

To: Eligible Applicants

On January 25, the MTC Select Committee on Transit Sustainability authorized the release of the Transit Performance Initiative – Major Corridors call for projects. This is a \$30 million pilot program to fund low-cost capital investments that improve operations and customer experience on major transit corridors. **Eligible applicants are AC Transit, SFMTA, SamTrans, and Santa Clara VTA. The implementing agency or a co-implementing agency may be the local roadway owner/operator.**

The goal of the program is to provide incentive funding for lower-cost improvements that can be implemented quickly on heavily traveled transit corridors and where possible to leverage existing agency efforts and plans in that direction.

Applications are due by 4 p.m., Monday, February 27, 2012.

1. Background

The region's urban trunk network of major transit lines carries over half of the total ridership in the region and coincides with areas where the region is forecasting significant growth. This network includes both bus and light rail operations on heavily traveled, congested urban corridors. Despite relatively slow operating speeds these routes nonetheless generate significant ridership. Staff is recommending a pilot program to fund low-cost capital improvements that improve operations and customer experience in this network. The improvements being sought are those that can be implemented quickly, as they build on existing transit agency programs to identify ways to improve service productivity.

2. Project Selection

2.1 Eligibility

Characteristics of Major Corridors that are eligible for this program:

- 1) Urban trunk bus or light rail route with high ridership/passenger miles but below system average operating speed (under 15 mph)
- 2) Frequent service (15 minutes or better)
- 3) Selected corridor could be a route, a portion of a route, or a corridor where several services merge

- 4) Investment must be a capital project resulting in improved operating speed or frequency using the existing fleet size, not by adding another bus to the route. All project phases are eligible but priority will be given to construction activities.
- 5) FHWA obligation of funds deadline: April 30, 2013.
- 6) All projects must meet CMAQ eligibility requirements and be able to provide the required 11.47% local match for these federal funds. Link to guidelines:
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/policy_and_guidance/cmaq08qd.pdf

2.2 Application Process

The application forms for this program are attached as Appendix A and B. All applications for eligible projects received by the deadline shown on page 1 will be reviewed by an evaluation committee convened by MTC. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Complete applications that clearly demonstrate the two-part process shown below will be given high priority for funding. Please limit the application to 10 pages.

- Part 1: Purpose and Need
Submit priority corridors, including:
 - Corridor description (general overview – length, land use, origins and destinations served, etc.)
 - Existing ridership (and passenger miles) by time of day and day of week
 - Service types and levels
 - Average current speed by time of day
- Part 2: Action Plan (estimates developed by each agency and reviewed by MTC for reasonableness)
 - Proposed speed improvements with associated operating costs and travel time savings
 - Total route time savings and change in resource requirements
 - Estimated change in ridership/revenue (estimates developed by each agency and reviewed for reasonableness)

Projects that do not receive funding immediately may be placed on an eligibility list, in case one or more approved projects can not be pursued within the established timeframe.

2.3 Project Evaluation

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals for the grant program. Based on the evaluation of all eligible projects and funding availability, MTC staff will forward a ranked list of projects to the Commission for approval.

- Project readiness and project management capacity (40%)
 - Priority given to projects that can be implemented within 12-24 months of grant award
 - Evidence of engineering and operational support from local jurisdictions (roadway owner-operators)
- Cost-effectiveness and Performance Indicators (60%)
 - Travel time savings (i.e. passenger seconds saved)

- Operating cost savings (i.e. cost per reduced operating cost)
- Priority given to corridors with more frequent service and higher passenger volumes

Based on the evaluation of all eligible projects and funding availability, MTC staff will forward a ranked list of projects to the Commission for approval.

If selected and approved by the Commission, project sponsors will be required to submit a board approved resolution of support (sample STP/CMAQ resolution of support attached as Appendix C, specific resolution for this project will be provided to selected agencies) and shall enter into their own grant with FHWA/FTA, and comply with all applicable federal requirements.

3. Applying for Funds & Timeline

All interested and eligible applicants should submit project information using the form provided in Appendix A. The timeline for application review and approval is as follows:

Call for Projects is released	Feb. 1 (Wednesday)
Applications due by 4 p.m.	Feb. 27 (Monday)
Recommend Pilot Program of Projects to Programming and Allocations Committee/Transit Sustainability Select Committee (referral to Commission)	Apr. 11 (Wednesday)
MTC adopts TPI Pilot Program of Projects	Apr. 25 (Wednesday)

Please send 4 copies of the completed applications and one electronic copy to:

Transit Performance Initiative – Major Corridors
Programming and Allocations Section
Attn: Shruti Hari
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607
shari@mtc.ca.gov

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Alix Bockelman at (510) 817-5850.

Sincerely,



Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director

Attachments

cc: Transit Sustainability Project Steering Committee, Bay Area Transit Agencies

SH:AB

J:\PROJECT\Transit Sustainability Project\Service Analysis\TPI\Appendix A - Call for Projects - Version B.doc

APPENDIX - A

APPLICATION FORM

(Available for download from the MTC website at: <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/> or applicants may contact the MTC Project Manager directly)

APPLICATION

MTC TRANSIT PERFORMANCE INITIATIVE – MAJOR CORRIDORS

Four Paper Copies and One Electronic Copy due Feb 27, 2012 by 4 p.m.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

a) Project Sponsor

Please provide the contact information of the person submitting this application.

Name & Title:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

b) Project Manager

Please provide the contact information of the person to answer questions on this application and who will also act as the agency Project Manager. Leave blank if same as above.

Name & Title:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

c) Project Title

Please provide a descriptive and distinctive name for the project.

d) Other Participating Agencies

Including your agency, please list all the agencies involved, the type of work (e.g/ signal priority) and the role of each agency with respect to the project.

Agency	Role	Corridor	Type of Work	Contact

PART II: PURPOSE & NEED

a) Project Description
 Please describe the project and the services being requested. Include explanation of how the project is eligible for CMAQ funds.

b) Corridor Description
 (general overview – length, land use, origins and destinations served, etc.)

c) Existing Route Level Ridership
 (Please fill out excel form attached as Appendix B)

d) Service Types & Levels

	Start Time	End Time	Headways		Vehicles in service		Daily Rev Veh Hrs
			Peak	Off-peak	Peak	Off-peak	
Weekday							
Saturday							
Sunday							

e) Route Level Performance Measures
 (Please fill out excel form attached as Appendix B)

f) Average Current Speed by time of day

PART III: ACTION PLAN (estimates developed by each agency and reviewed by MTC for reasonableness)

a) Proposed speed improvements and travel time savings

Blank area for proposed speed improvements and travel time savings.

b) Total route time and cost savings/ change in resource requirements

Blank area for total route time and cost savings/ change in resource requirements.

c) Estimated change in ridership/revenue

Blank area for estimated change in ridership/revenue.

d) Simplified Benefit/Cost Analysis

Cost per seconds saved (\$)	Passenger seconds saved (s)	Cost per reduced operating cost (\$)

Blank area for additional notes or calculations related to the simplified benefit/cost analysis.

PART IV: BUDGET

a) Budget Summary

Request	\$ (Thousands)	% of Total Project Budget
Amount of funding request:		
Amount of local match proposed: List description of fund source here:		
Total Project Budget		

b) Budget by Phase

Phase	Total Amount - Escalated - (Thousands)
Environmental Studies & Preliminary Eng (ENV / PE / PA&ED)	
Design - Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E)	
Right-of-Way Activities /Acquisition (R/W)	
Construction / Rolling Stock Acquisition (CON)	
Total Project Budget	

c) Route Level Operating Plan

(Please fill out excel form attached as Appendix B)

PART V: ATTACHMENTS

a) VICINITY MAP

Please include, in a separate attachment, a Vicinity Map clearly identifying the nearby jurisdictions, transit centers, highways, etc.

b) DETAILED PROJECT AREA MAP

Please include, in a separate attachment, a Map showing an overview of the project area including proposed routes/services affected and all of the cross streets, highways, etc.

PART VI: DEMONSTRATION OF PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

a) LOCAL AGENCY RESOURCES

Please describe the resources (staff time & additional funding) the sponsor agency will allocate for the successful completion of the project.

b) PROJECT READINESS/ SCHEDULE

Phase-Milestone	Month/Year	
	Start Date	Completion Date
Environmental Document		
Environmental Studies, Preliminary Eng. (ENV / PE / PA&ED)		
Final Design - Plans, Specs. & Estimates (PS&E)		
Right-of-Way Activities /Acquisition (R/W)		
Construction (Begin – Open for Use)		

APPLICATION SIGNATURES

Please sign below and have an authorized official from all participating agencies sign below or attach a letter of support. By signing the application and/or providing letters of support, the signatory affirms that the statements contained in the application are true and complete to the best of their knowledge. Please note that if selected, all participating cities including the primary sponsor are required to be official signatories to the agreement.

Primary Sponsor:

Signature

Print Name

Title

Agency

Participating Agencies:

Signature

Print Name

Title

Agency

Signature

Print Name

Title

Agency

APPENDIX – C

**Resolution of Local Support
STP/CMAQ Funding
Resolution No.**

Authorizing the filing of an application for federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding and committing the necessary non-federal match and stating the assurance to complete the project

WHEREAS, (INSERT APPLICANT NAME HERE) (herein referred to as APPLICANT) is submitting an application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for (INSERT STP/CMAQ FUNDING \$ AMOUNT HERE) in funding from the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program for the (INSERT PROJECT TITLE(S) HERE) (herein referred to as PROJECT) for the MTC Resolution, No. 3925, New Federal Surface Transportation Act (FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12) Cycle 1 STP/CMAQ Program: Project Selection Criteria, Policy, Procedures and Programming (herein referred to as PROGRAM); and

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA) (Public Law 109-59, August 10, 2005) authorized the Surface Transportation Program (23 U.S.C. § 133) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) (23 U.S.C. § 149) through September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA has been extended through March 31, 2012 pursuant to Public Law 112-30, and may be subsequently extended pending enactment of successor legislation for continued funding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SAFETEA, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, eligible project sponsors wishing to receive federal Surface Transportation Program and/or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (STP/CMAQ) funds for a project shall submit an application first with the appropriate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), for review and inclusion in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the MPO for the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay region; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised) that sets out procedures governing the application and use of STP/CMAQ funds; and

WHEREAS, APPLICANT is an eligible project sponsor for STP/CMAQ funds; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application for STP/CMAQ funding, MTC requires a resolution adopted by the responsible implementing agency stating the following:

1. 1) the commitment of necessary local matching funds of at least 11.47%; and
2. that the sponsor understands that the STP/CMAQ funding is fixed at the programmed amount, and therefore any cost increase cannot be expected to be funded with additional STP/CMAQ funds; and
3. that the project will comply with the procedures specified in Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, revised); and
4. the assurance of the sponsor to complete the project as described in the application, and if approved, as included in MTC's TIP; and
5. that the project will comply with all the project-specific requirements as set forth in the PROGRAM.; and
6. that the project (transit only) will comply with MTC Resolution No. 3866, which sets forth the

requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan to more efficiently deliver transit projects in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the APPLICANT is authorized to execute and file an application for funding for the PROJECT under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) of SAFETEA, any extensions of SAFETEA or any successor legislation for continued funding ; and be it further

RESOLVED that the APPLICANT by adopting this resolution does hereby state that:

7. APPLICANT will provide (\$ minimum match amount) in non-federal matching funds; and
8. APPLICANT understands that the STP/CMAQ funding for the project is fixed at the MTC approved programmed amount, and that any cost increases must be funded by the APPLICANT from other funds, and that APPLICANT does not expect any cost increases to be funded with additional STP/CMAQ funding; and
9. APPLICANT understands the funding deadlines associated with these funds and will comply with the provisions and requirements of the Regional Project Funding Delivery Policy (MTC Resolution No. 3606, as revised); and
10. PROJECT will be implemented as described in the complete application and in this resolution and, if approved, for the amount programmed in the MTC federal TIP; and
11. APPLICANT (for a transit project only) agrees to comply with the requirements of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan as set forth in MTC Resolution 3866; and
12. APPLICANT and the PROJECT will comply with the requirements as set forth in the program; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED that APPLICANT is an eligible sponsor of STP/CMAQ funded projects; and be it further

RESOLVED that APPLICANT is authorized to submit an application for STP/CMAQ funds for the PROJECT; and be it further

RESOLVED that there is no legal impediment to APPLICANT making applications for the funds; and be it further

RESOLVED that there is no pending or threatened litigation that might in any way adversely affect the proposed PROJECT, or the ability of APPLICANT to deliver such PROJECT; and be it further

RESOLVED that APPLICANT authorizes its Executive Director, General Manager, or designee to execute and file an application with MTC for STP/CMAQ funding for the PROJECT as referenced in this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the MTC in conjunction with the filing of the application; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MTC is requested to support the application for the PROJECT described in the resolution and to include the PROJECT, if approved, in MTC's TIP.