

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Regional Network Management Committee Customer Advisory Group

October 27, 2023

Agenda Item 3b

Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program: Draft Scoring Criteria

Subject:

The Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) effort serves to inventory transit operator-identified “hotspot” locations with delay or reliability issues and fund the delivery of near-term (quick-build) transit priority projects. Project staff have developed draft criteria for evaluating the inventory of delay hotspots to develop a project list that informs future funding recommendations.

Background:

Investing in transit priority throughout the Bay Area roadway network is one of many strategies adopted by MTC to improve the transit customer experience and encourage more people to use transit; doing so works towards overarching climate and equity goals of Plan Bay Area 2050 (PBA 2050) and the Transit Transformation Action Plan (TAP). In particular, funding the design and delivery of prioritized near-term transit projects that improve bus speed and reliability is specifically called out in Action 6F of PBA 2050 and Actions 9 and 12 of the TAP.

Transit priority efforts are being developed in close partnership with transit agency partners. The BusAID program is being co-led by staff at MTC and AC Transit. A Transit Priority Working Group (TPWG) consisting of transit operator staff was formed in July 2023 to provide regular input on the transit priority work at all stages.

BusAID Overview & Draft Scoring Criteria:

BusAID Phase 1 kicked off in spring 2023. Staff interviewed each of the 20 bus operators in the Bay Area to document barriers to transit priority and inventory operator-identified hotspot locations with delay or reliability issues. Staff completed transit operator interviews and compiled a consolidated inventory of hotspot locations in summer 2023. At that time, staff initiated Phase 2 and drafted weighted criteria that will be applied to the hotspot inventory to develop a project list that informs future funding recommendations. Staff presented the hotspot inventory and draft scoring criteria at the August TPWG meeting. The draft criteria include

metrics related to transit service characteristics, equity considerations, and PBA 2050 Priority Development Areas. Draft criteria were informed by the goals of PBA 2050 and the TAP as well as the BusAID program purpose:

Fund the design and delivery of prioritized near-term transit priority projects that maximize travel time savings and service reliability improvements for the most people as quickly as possible, while centering populations that depend on transit the most.

Next Steps:

Staff are scheduled to present the draft scoring criteria to the RNM Council in November. Criteria will then be updated based on feedback received from the Customer Advisory Group (CAG), TPWG, and RNM Council and applied to the hotspot inventory to generate a draft project list. Staff will present the draft project list to the CAG, TPWG, and RNM Council in December, before finalizing based on feedback received. Afterwards, staff will commence Phase 3 and evaluate the feasibility/readiness of the highest scoring projects to determine which are most appropriate for near-term implementation. Staff will use the feasibility/readiness evaluation to develop project funding recommendations, to be presented to the RNM Council and RNM Committee for review and action (Phase 4).

Table 1: BusAID Schedule

Phase 1 (Spring 2023)	Phase 2 – Active Phase (Summer/Fall 2023)	Phase 3 (Winter/Spring 2024)	Phase 4 (Mid-2024 Onward)
Operators Interviews and Hotspot Inventory	Hotspot Project List	Feasibility/Readiness Assessment and Funding Recommendations	Project Advancement

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information only.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation