Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee

February 11, 2026 **Agenda Item 2d-26-0092**

MTC Resolution No. 4744

Subject:

Adoption of the 2027 Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 8 Guidelines.

Background:

The State established the ATP in September 2013. ATP funding is distributed with 50% to the state for a statewide competitive program; 10% to the small urban and rural area competitive program to be managed by the state; and 40% to the large urbanized area competitive program, with funding distributed by population to and managed by the ten largest Metropolitan Planning Organizations ("Regional ATP").

MTC is responsible for developing the guidelines for the Regional ATP and for recommending proposed projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for adoption. Resolution No. 4744 establishes MTC's policies, procedures, and project selection criteria for the Cycle 8 Regional ATP. Staff expects $53 million in new funding available to MTC for programming as part of the regional ATP over four years, FY 2027-28 through FY 2030-31.

MTC Guidelines and Procedures – Proposed Changes

CTC staff has proposed minimal changes to the Statewide Guidelines to maintain a consistent application process from the previous cycle. MTC's Regional ATP Guidelines are based on CTC's draft ATP Guidelines, scheduled for adoption on March 19, 2026. To maintain consistency with the CTC's statewide guidelines, MTC staff does not propose any significant changes to the regional guidelines or eligibility criteria for applicants.

A summary of the changes to the Statewide Guidelines is in Attachment A, and Attachment B highlights the differences between MTC's Regional Guidelines and the draft Statewide ATP Guidelines.

MTC Application Technical Assistance Program

MTC created an ATP application technical assistance program in 2020 to improve the quality and overall competitiveness of applications from the region in the statewide ATP. Staff and the

selected consultant provided application technical assistance for ATP Cycles 5 and 6, and in 2022, via Executive Director delegated authority, MTC elected to continue the ATP technical assistance program for ATP Cycles 7 and 8. In preparation for ATP Cycle 8, MTC has begun offering virtual technical assistance workshops focused on the core narrative components of the ATP application. To date, staff and the consultant have held two workshops, with three additional workshops scheduled through the Spring. In addition to these topic-specific workshops, staff are offering working office hours to support applicants as they develop their applications. As in prior ATP cycles, staff and the consultant will also provide peer review and mock scoring of near-complete draft applications to help applicants maximize their scores. Staff expect that this enhanced support will further improve the quality and competitiveness of applications from the region.

Schedule

Staff will submit these guidelines to the CTC for approval following Commission adoption. Upon CTC approval of MTC's Regional ATP Guidelines, expected on March 19, 2026, MTC will issue a call for projects for the regional program, concurrent with the call for projects for the statewide program. Applications for the Regional ATP are due to MTC by June 22, 2026, the same date as the Statewide Competitive ATP. MTC staff will recommend programming projects from the regional ATP in early 2027 via an amendment to MTC Resolution No. 4744.

Other Considerations

Staff recommends continuing to award points to projects within a jurisdiction with an adopted Vision Zero or Bike and Pedestrian Safety Policy and to projects identified in an approved Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP). The inclusion of these points encourages sponsors to apply for projects that advance the equity and safety goals of *Plan Bay Area 2050*. Staff also recommends that the regional guidelines maintain consistency with the proposed One Bay Area Grant (OBAG 4) Program framework, specifically, for cities and counties to:

- Complete a Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) or equivalent safety plan. Jurisdictions must have an LRSP or equivalent safety plan in place to be eligible for regional ATP funding.

- Adopt and achieve certification of the 2023-2031 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycle housing element and maintain certification throughout the OBAG 3 program period. Jurisdictions must also submit Housing Element Annual Reports to HCD each year by the April 1 deadline throughout the OBAG 4 program period. Finally, jurisdictions must comply with the Housing Accountability Act and other state housing laws related to surplus lands, accessory dwelling units, and density bonuses throughout the OBAG 4 program period. Jurisdictions that do not meet these requirements will be ineligible for future regional ATP cycles until they comply.

Further, MTC approved the Transit Priority Policy for Roadways on January 28, 2026, to enhance the transit rider experience by supporting the implementation of transit priority infrastructure (MTC Resolution No. 4739). The policy requires roadway projects in the public right-of-way that request more than $250,000 in MTC discretionary funding to minimize unintended impacts to transit. The policy will be implemented through MTC's existing Complete Streets Checklist process, which is already required for all ATP applications. An enhanced online version of the checklist is expected to launch in early 2026. The regional ATP Cycle 8 guidelines remain consistent with the Regional Active Transportation Plan and MTC's Complete Streets Policy, MTC Resolution No. 4493).

Finally, staff notes that Regional Measure 3 (RM3), approved by voters in 2018, includes $150 million for the Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail (SR2T/BT) competitive grant program, which also funds bicycle and pedestrian improvements. MTC awarded and programmed $75 million during the first cycle of the program in early 2025, and those projects are currently underway. Consistent with the first cycle, staff anticipate the second cycle will follow a similar timeline, with the call for projects released after the ATP Cycle 8 application deadline and SR2T/BT Cycle 2 applications due in the fall. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Committee as we work toward establishing program priorities, funding levels, and eligibility criteria for the second cycle.

Issues:

None.

Recommendations:

1. Refer MTC Resolution No. 4744 to the Commission for approval.
2. Direct staff to submit MTC's Regional ATP Guidelines to the California Transportation Commission.
3. Authorize a call for projects consistent with the guidelines upon CTC's approval of MTC's Regional ATP Guidelines.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Highlighted 2027 Statewide ATP Guideline Changes
- Attachment B – Highlighted 2027 Regional ATP Guideline Changes
- MTC Resolution No. 4744
    - Attachment A
    - Attachment B

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