
Staff Report

To: SCTA Directors

From: Janet Spilman, Deputy Director, Planning and Public Outreach

Item: 4.4.2 – Plan Bay Area - update on regional transportation plan projects

Date: March 14, 2011

Issue:

What is the status of the regional transportation plan?

Background:

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) requested the assistance of the nine Bay Area Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) to help with the Call for Projects within their counties to be submitted to MTC for consideration in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) now called Plan Bay Area.

The initial round of submittals to MTC is to remain within the target budget established by MTC for Sonoma County of \$3.92 billion. This amount is derived from a regional total of \$32 billion and calculated as a population share with an additional 75% mark up. It is likely that actual funding available in 2013 RTP will be similar to the forecasts made in the 2009 RTP, which was approximated \$1.4 billion with amounts added by MTC for bus operations and maintenance, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, road maintenance and some other regionally determined projects that benefitted Sonoma County.

Over the remainder of this year MTC will consider the transportation projects as decisions are made regarding planned land uses, as required by SB 375. Most projects that are considered capacity increasing (and not already in construction) will be subject to performance analysis. A final list of projects will be approved by MTC in the draft RPT/SCS at the beginning of 2012.

Project submittal:

All projects from the 2009 RTP are brought forward, but require updating and approval. Sponsors of multi-county projects, such as SMART submit directly to MTC. Members of the public are able to submit projects, but must secure a public agency sponsor and coordinate the project submittal with the SCTA. MTC has worked with the transit operators and public works departments to accurately represent Operation and Maintenance costs.

Programmatic categories are groups of similar projects, programs, and strategies that are included under a single group for ease of listing in the RTP/SCS. Projects within programmatic categories must be exempt from regional transportation conformity, and not be capacity increasing. A list of the eligible program categories is attached.

Many projects which address the concerns of communities, such as pedestrian bulbouts, bicycle lanes, transit passenger shelters, specific bus routes, ridesharing, etc. are often taken into account in a programmatic category. Therefore individual projects of this nature do not need to be specified. Projects grouped in a programmatic category are viewed as a program of multiple projects. Projects

that add capacity or expand the network are not included in a programmatic category. Projects that do not fit within the identified programmatic categories are listed separately in the RTP/SCS.

MTC/ABAG meetings regarding the RTP/SCS are described and listed at www.OneBayArea.org. SCTA has been operating under a tight schedule for RTP projects.

There are still questions about the amount in programmatic categories determined by MTC, SMART, the definition of "in construction", and exactly which projects will be considered capacity increasing or which programmatic category they may fit into. These questions have been explored with MTC and project sponsors and we anticipate answers prior to SCTA approving a final project list.

Milestones & Public Outreach

MTC issues formal Call for Projects to CMAs-----February 10
SCTA Advisory Committees (CAC, TAC, PAC) review MTC issued Guidance, 2009 RTP project list & new project ideas ----- February 24-28
Initial Vision Scenario released by ABAG----- March 11
SCTA RCPA Board initial review of IVS, Call for Projects----- March 14
CAC public meeting for input on RTP list of projects----- March 28
SCTA RCPA Board reviews IVS and reviews project list (no action) ----- April 11
SCTA RCPA Board approves list of Project Submittal to MTC----- May 9
Public workshop on Preferred Scenario-----May 18, 2011
Approval of draft Plan Bay Area with preferred SCS scenario-----January 2012
Adoption of Plan Bay Area ----- March 2013

Policy Impacts:

The Plan Bay Area, incorporating the Regional Transportation Plan and the Sustainable Communities Strategy will serve as the long term transportation and land use plan for the Bay Area. Transportation projects needing funding that is approved by MTC (most projects) are required to be listed individually or qualify for one of the programmatic categories in the Plan Bay Area.

Fiscal Impacts:

Although this initial project submittal does not require that projects demonstrate known funding sources, the final document will be financially constrained. MTC has offered a target of \$3.9 billion with the understanding that roughly half of that amount will be available.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is for information and discussion only.

As indicated in the schedule above, the RTP will be presented to the SCTA for approval May 9, 2011.