

Regional Network Management Council

April 22, 2024

Agenda Item 4b

Project Funding Recommendations for Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program

Subject:

Approval of approximately \$18 million in funding for eight near-term transit priority projects as part of the Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan (TAP) Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) program.

Background:

In September 2021, the Commission adopted the TAP, which identified near-term actions to improve the region's transit system. The BusAID program is a TAP initiative to reduce transit travel times and improve transit reliability. BusAID emphasizes near-term, quick-build solutions to address problem "hotspot" locations identified by transit operators. Example projects include:

- Transit lanes and queue jump lanes to allow buses to bypass traffic congestion.
- Transit signal priority (TSP) to reduce transit vehicle red-light delay.
- Boarding islands or bus bulb to reduce pull-in/pull-out delay at transit stops.
- Optimizing transit stop placement & spacing to minimize delay, for example placing transit stops nearside at intersections with Stop signs, or farside at signals equipped with TSP.

Thirty million dollars has been set aside for the program, comprised of \$15 million in local State Transit Assistance (STA) Exchange funds and \$15 million in federal One Bay Area Grant 3 (OBAG 3) program Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) or Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.

Project Selection Process:

Funding recommendations were informed by a two-stage project screening process (Table 1). After initial interviews with 21 transit operators, 87 projects were analyzed and scored in Stage 1: Analysis and Scoring. The 24 highest-scoring projects were invited to proceed into Stage 2: Feasibility/Readiness Assessment. Of these, 13 projects were submitted by six transit operators and evaluated to identify which projects should be awarded BusAID funding, with an emphasis

on near-term implementation. The other 11 projects were deferred by operators to continue project development.

Table 1: BusAID Two-Stage Project Screening Process

Initial Project Inventory	From May to July 2023, staff interviewed 21 transit operators and received 87 project considerations identified by 17 transit operators.
Stage 1: Analysis & Scoring	Staff conducted an initial analysis and reviewed these 87 projects based on the following criteria: transit service characteristics (i.e., ridership and delay reduction potential); equity considerations; and Plan Bay Area 2050 Priority Development Areas. The top 24 projects from 11 transit operators were invited into Stage 2.
Stage 2: Feasibility/Readiness Assessment	Six transit operators submitted a total of 13 projects for the Feasibility/Readiness assessment, totaling over \$39 million in requested funding. A panel consisting of MTC, Caltrans, and BART staff assessed the projects based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project cost • current project phase • quick-build potential • schedule risk • project scalability • agency support and coordination • project sponsor and delivery agency • types of assistance needed
Project Funding Recommendations	Eight projects identified by six operators are recommended for full or partial project funding (see Attachment A).

Funding Recommendations:

Based on the results of the feasibility/readiness assessment, eight projects identified by six operators are recommended for full or partial project funding (see Attachment A). Funded project phases are anticipated to be completed within the next one to three years. All projects include pre- and post-implementation evaluation to quantify project benefits. Approximately \$18 million of the \$30 million total BusAID program funding amount is recommended for project funding at this time. The remaining balance of \$12 million in the program will be reserved and awarded to other critical projects that are in development and design, but not yet ready for

implementation. Staff anticipates the BusAID program to provide re-occurring funding opportunities moving forward.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Approval of BusAID Project Funding Recommendations listed in Attachment A.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: BusAID Project Funding Recommendations
- Attachment B: BusAID Complete Project Inventory
- Attachment C: BusAID Funding Program Guidelines
- Attachment D: Presentation