

To: Marketing, Planning & Legislative Committee

Date: 06/23/2020

From: Ruby Horta, Director of Planning, Marketing & Innovation

Reviewed by: WC.

SUBJECT: Blue Ribbon Transit Recover Task Force

Background

On May 7, 2020, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) released a framework for the creation of a 30-member Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (Task Force) to guide the future of the Bay Area's public transportation network as the region adjusts to new conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force, chaired by MTC Commissioner and Solano County Supervisor Jim Spring, includes other local elected officials as well as advocates for people with disabilities; representatives from the state Senate and Assembly; the California State Transportation Agency; transit operators; business and labor groups; and transit and social justice advocates. The Task Force is assisting MTC in understanding the scale of the crisis facing all Bay Area transit systems because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help guide the distribution of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Phase 2 funds.

Additionally, the Task Force is expected to submit a Bay Area Public Transit Transformation Action Plan to the Commission by mid-2021 for its consideration and possible adoption. The Plan should describe the actions needed to re-shape the region's transit system into a more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused mobility network across the entire Bay Area and beyond.

Transit Agency Cooperation

In early June, MTC requested a recovery strategy from each transit agency. Staff from various transit agencies coalesced to submit a recovery strategy package demonstrating a level of collaboration that may not always be acknowledged. Since then, staff continues the collective effort focused on four (4) key areas: financial sustainability, public health, service and operations planning and communications.

The finance subcommittee has been largely focused on providing feedback on MTC's distribution of CARES Act Phase 2 funds. With regards to public health, a consultant (WSP)

has been tasked with the development of a Bay Area Health Plan for transit providers. The goal is to have consistent guidelines for all transit operators to minimize rider confusion as they transfer from one system to another. The plan will include topics such as: face covering, physical distancing, and capacity requirements. The planning subcommittee has been tasked with developing a vision for a more coordinated and seamless transportation system for the Bay Area. This is largely a continuation of the FASTER effort that came to a halt earlier this year. Finally, the communications subcommittee is developing consistent messaging for the riding public and the community at large.

Upcoming Meetings

The Task Force met on May 29th and June 15th. The next two meetings are scheduled on June 29th and July 20th. The Task Force will likely submit the recommended CARES Act Phase 2 funds allocation to MTC for approval at the July Commission meeting.

Financial Implications:

None, for information only.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.