

To: Operations & Scheduling Committee

Date: 05/24/2024

From: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: *Ref*

SUBJECT: Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) Program Update

Background:

Over the past couple years, the Service Planning and Scheduling department has focused its efforts on improving service reliability, particularly as frequencies were reduced due to the pandemic and the ongoing operator shortage has limited the ability to restore service. Average transit speeds have declined over time throughout the Bay Area and transit agencies are delivering near-term (quick-build) transit priority projects to maximize transit travel time savings and service reliability improvements. These efforts work to improve the transit customer experience and encourage more people to use transit by making it an attractive and competitive mode choice.

Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) Program:

In September 2021, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted the Transformation Action Plan (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 delays.
- 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) funds and \$15 million in Federal One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) or Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.

Monument Corridor Transit Priority Project:

County Connection identified 14 potential locations for transit priority improvements. Through a data-driven evaluation considering ridership, service levels, passenger loads, and equity, the Monument Corridor was chosen for funding. The funded project will focus on:

- **Optimizing bus stops:** Consolidating stops and improving spacing for better efficiency.
- **Improving accessibility:** Upgrading bus stops to meet ADA standards (Phase 1).
- **Enhancing signal timing:** Implementing Transit Signal Priority (TSP) along Monument Boulevard between Detroit Avenue and Mohr Lane (Phase 2).

Financial Implications:

County Connection will be receiving \$385,000 in OBAG 3 (STP/CMAQ) federal funds from MTC for the project. A minimum 11.47% local match is required, which amounts to \$49,880. Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds will be used for the local match.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachments:

None