

# Transit Operations Program Guidelines

## **Definition from Resolution No. 2016.06.17**

The revenue from this program category will provide additional funds specifically for bus operations to serve vulnerable, underserved, and transit dependent populations throughout the county. The goals of the program category are to increase ridership, improve efficiency, enhance mobility services for seniors and disabled, and improve affordability for the underserved and vulnerable constituencies in the county. As VTA considers modifications to bus operations and routes to improve ridership and efficiencies, these funds may also be utilized to maintain and expand service to the most underserved and vulnerable populations. The funds may be used to increase core bus route service frequencies, extending hours of operations to early morning, evenings and weekends to improve mobility, safe access and affordability to residents that rely on bus service for critical transportation mobility needs. Attachment D describes the list of Candidate Projects and Programs.

## **Total Funding**

- \$500 million in 2017 dollars.

## **Distribution**

- VTA anticipates that allocations will be programmed based upon the total allocation for the Transit Operations Program contained in 2016 Measure B divided by the number of years in the measure.
- Future allocations will vary depending upon the amount of sales tax revenue collected.
- The Transit Operations Program Area funding will be allocated for the following four programs identified in 2016 Measure B Attachment D:
  - Enhance Frequent Core Bus Network by increasing core bus route service frequencies, and expanding or adding additional evening, late night and weekend service.
  - Expand mobility services and affordable fare programs for seniors, disabled, students and low-income riders.
  - Support new/innovative transit service models to address first/last mile connections and transit services for the transit dependent, vulnerable populations and paratransit users that is safe and accountable.
  - Improve amenities at bus stops to increase safety, security and access with lighting and access improvements.

The proposed allocations for the four categories are as follows:

<b>2016 Measure B Transit Operations Program Area</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>Funding Allocation (Proposed)</b>
Frequent Core Bus Network	73%
Innovative Mobility Models & Programs	8%
Fare Programs	15%
Bus Stop Amenities	4%

### **Implementation**

For FY18 & FY19 Budget Allocation:

- The Enhanced Frequent Core Bus Network will directly fund VTA's core bus network of services increasing core bus route service frequencies, and expanding or adding evening, late night and weekend service.
- The Fare Programs will fund the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) and reduced fares for youth.
- The Innovative Transit Models Program will support goals to address first/last mile connections. Strategies may include competitive grant programs to help fund services operated by local jurisdictions, utilize excess paratransit capacity, and other programs that encourage investments in local service.
- The Bus Stop Amenities Program will directly fund improvements at VTA's bus stops. The bus stop improvements will be prioritized based on VTA's Transit Passenger Environment Plan and ongoing maintenance needs.

Six to 12 months into the implementation of the Next Network, staff will have ridership data available to evaluate potential increases to the ridership hours where we see higher demand for service. To meet our commitment as expressed in 2016 Measure B and in collaboration with the public, VTA will make increased investments in service hours in the system focusing on those areas where we see the greatest demand by transit dependent populations.

VTA will consider the potential for further reducing the fares for seniors and youth with a requested goal of free rides.

### **Criteria**

- Only projects and programs currently listed on 2016 Measure B Attachment D are eligible.

### **Requirements**

- For potential competitive grants for the Innovative Transit Models Program:
  - Reporting requirements will be detailed in agreements executed with VTA for project funding.

- All applications must include a delivery schedule.
  - Funds will be available on a reimbursement basis.
- VTA Complete Streets reporting requirements will be required for all capital improvements projects.
- All collateral material will be required to display a 2016 Measure B logo.