

Date: _____ March 27, 2006

Committee Meeting Date: _____ April 20, 2006

Board Meeting Date: _____ May 4, 2006

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION X DISCUSSION _____ INFO _____

TO: Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Carolyn M. Gonot
Chief Development Officer

SUBJECT: FY 2007 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the programming of FY 2007 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program Manager (TFCA 40%) funds to projects as shown in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) is generated by a \$4.00 surcharge on vehicle registrations. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) administers these funds in the nine-county Bay Area. Funds are available for allocation to alternative fuels, arterial management, bicycle, and trip-reduction projects that reduce vehicle emissions.

BAAQMD returns 40% of these funds to the county in which they are collected for allocation by a "program manager." This fund is called the TFCA Program Manager Fund (TFCA 40%) Fund. VTA is the program manager for Santa Clara County. Project sponsors apply directly to VTA for funding. The VTA Board of Directors allocates these funds on a competitive basis to projects in Santa Clara County, subject to approval by BAAQMD.

At its August 3, 2000 meeting, the VTA Board of Directors designated half of the annual TFCA 40% allocation to bicycle projects in the Countywide Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) for a ten-year period. On December 9, 2004, the VTA Board extended the TFCA 40% commitment to the bicycle program until 2030.

At its May 5, 2005 meeting, the VTA Board authorized the programming of \$3.3 million in BEP TFCA 40% funds over the three-year period FY 2006 through 2008 to MTC's Vehicle Buy Back program. In exchange, MTC has provided \$3.3 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to be programmed to BEP projects at the VTA Board's discretion. To date, a little more than \$1.4 million in BEP TFCA 40% funds have been provided to the Vehicle Buy Back Program. The VTA Board will begin programming the CMAQ funds at its April 6, 2006 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Attachment A presents the FY 2007 project funding recommendations developed by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Scoring Subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). These recommendations are based on the TFCA 40% Policies and Criteria established by the VTA Board of Directors in September 1996 and amended in August 2000, with some additional considerations described in the following text.

Competitive Program

Approximately \$1.2 million is designated for the competitive program in the 2007 cycles.¹ Nine eligible projects were submitted by the VTA Member Agencies, with a total grant request of \$1,739,155. Staff recommends borrowing \$539,476 from the BEP TFCA 40% funds this year in order to allow all the competitive projects to be funded as shown in Attachment A.

While the scoring committee did recommend funding all projects if possible, some issues were raised for later discussion with regards to the future of the VTA Shuttle program. It was noted that the VTA Shuttles are an ongoing program that consistently scores very well every year. There is concern that over time, the shuttles could take up an increasing percentage of the county's competitive TFCA funds. The shuttle program includes two Community Bus routes operating in Los Gatos. Concern was raised that the other shuttle routes in San Jose and Santa Clara receive financial support from employers and the cities in which they operate. There is no similar external support for the two Community Bus routes.

Bicycle Expenditure Program

Approximately \$1.35 million is available for the BEP projects during the FY 2007 fund cycle.² Staff recommends that \$811,895 of this be programmed to MTC's Vehicle Buyback Program as shown in Attachment A, as part of the exchange for CMAQ funds. As discussed above, staff recommends programming the remaining \$539,476 to the competitive program to fully fund that project list.

ALTERNATIVES:

The VTA Board may request other programming alternatives.

¹ Includes savings from prior year competitive projects.

² Includes savings from prior year BEP projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

VTA Board action will make approximately \$1,739,155 in FY 2007 TFCA 40% funds available to the competitive projects in Santa Clara County and make \$811,895 million available to the BEP Projects via an exchange with MTC for CMAQ funds. No funding from the VTA Transit Enterprise Fund will be used for this work.

Prepared by: Bill Hough, Transportation Planner III
Reviewed by: Marcella Rensi, Manager, Programming & Grants

Attachment A

Santa Clara County FY 2006-07 TFCA 40% Program

Rank	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Total Cost	Eligible Grant Request	Local Match	Local Match %	TFCA Cost per Ton	Grant Recommended	Cumulative Total	Total Score
<u>Funded Competitive Projects</u>										
1	VTA	Light Rail Shuttle Program	\$1,393,605	\$485,000	\$908,605	65%	\$70,879	\$485,000	\$485,000	74.0
2	San Jose/ Sunnyvale	LRT Controller Upgrades	\$784,900	\$600,000	\$184,000	24%	\$30,921	\$600,000	\$1,085,000	65.5
3	Mountain View	Stevens Creek Trail Reach 4	\$1,455,000	\$275,000	\$1,180,000	81%	\$55,126	\$275,000	\$1,360,000	54.0
4	Santa Clara County	San Tomas Signal Controllers	\$100,000	\$90,000	\$10,000	10%	\$4,747	\$90,000	\$1,450,000	51.0
5	San Jose	Bicycle Racks	\$50,000	\$40,000	\$10,000	20%	\$5,388	\$40,000	\$1,490,000	48.0
6	Santa Clara County	Lawrence Expressway Signal Timing	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$5,000	10%	\$18,048	\$45,000	\$1,535,000	43.0
7	Sunnyvale	Mathilda Avenue Adaptive Signal Project	\$195,450	\$175,905	\$19,545	10%	\$80,831	\$175,905	\$1,710,905	35.0
8	Los Altos	Bicycle Racks	\$17,250	\$17,250	\$0	0%	\$18,622	\$17,250	\$1,728,155	27.0
9	Sunnyvale	Bicycle Lockers	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$0	0%	\$70,196	\$11,000	\$1,739,155	25.0
CUT-OFF LINE										
<i>Subtotal Competitive:</i>			<i>\$4,057,205</i>	<i>\$1,739,155</i>	<i>\$2,318,050</i>			<i>\$1,739,155</i>		
<u>Funded Tier 1 BEP Projects*</u>										
N.A.	MTC	Vehicle Buyback Program**	\$811,895	\$811,895	\$0	N.A.		\$811,895	\$2,551,050	N/A
<i>Subtotal BEP Tier 1:</i>			<i>\$811,895</i>	<i>\$811,895</i>	<i>\$0</i>			<i>\$811,895</i>		
Total			\$4,869,100	\$2,551,050	\$2,318,050			\$2,551,050		

* VTA Board of Directors policy adopted August 3, 2000 - 50% of annual TFCA 40% allocation to Countywide Tier 1 BEP.

** Funds exchanged with Metropolitan Transportation Committee for CMAQ Funds