

Regional Network Management Council

December 18, 2023

Agenda Item 5a

Transit Transformation Action Plan: Update on Regional Transit Priority Efforts

Subject:

An update on the identification of near-term transit projects to improve transit speed and reliability and development of a regional Transit Priority Policy.

Background:

Investing in transit priority throughout the Bay Area roadway network is one of many strategies adopted by MTC to improve the transit customer experience and encourage more people to use transit. Transit priority efforts are being developed in close partnership with transit agency partners. Specifically, the Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) effort and regional Transit Priority Policy – Transit Transformation Action Plan (TAP) items No. 9 and 12 respectively – are being co-led by MTC and AC Transit staff. A Transit Priority Working Group (TPWG) consisting of transit operator staff was formed in July 2023 to provide regular input on transit priority work at all stages.

BusAID Program (TAP Action No. 9)

The BusAID effort serves to inventory transit operator-identified “hotspot” locations with delay or reliability issues and fund the delivery of near-term (quick-build) transit priority projects. The intent is to maximize travel time savings and service reliability improvements for the most people as quickly as possible, while centering populations that depend on transit the most.

Staff initiated the BusAID program in spring 2023, interviewing each of the 20 Bay Area bus, light rail, and streetcar operators to document barriers to transit priority and inventory operator-identified hotspot locations with delay or reliability issues (Phase 1). Upon finalizing the hotspot inventory, staff developed hotspot scoring criteria related to transit service characteristics, equity considerations, and PBA 2050 Priority Development Areas (Phase 2). Staff presented draft scoring criteria to the August TPWG and October RNM Customer Advisory Group and are seeking additional input from the RNM Council. The scoring criteria will be used to generate a draft project list, which will be presented to the RNM Council and other advisory bodies in early

2024. Subsequently, staff will evaluate the feasibility/readiness of the highest scoring projects to develop project funding recommendations (Phase 3). Upon approval of project funding recommendations, project sponsors can begin implementation (Phase 4).

Table 1: BusAID Schedule

Phase 1 (Spring/Summer 2023)	Phase 2 – Active Phase (Fall 2023/Winter 2024)	Phase 3 (Winter/Spring 2024)	Phase 4 (Mid-2024 Onward)
Operators Interviews and Hotspot Inventory	Hotspot Project List	Feasibility/Readiness Assessment and Funding Recommendations	Project Advancement

Transit Priority Policy (TAP Action No. 12):

The purpose of the Transit Priority Policy is to establish a regional vision to support the implementation of transit priority initiatives and address barriers such as project delivery processes, multi-agency coordination challenges, data availability, and limited funding.

A workshop was held on December 12 to kick off the development of the Policy and included staff from transit agencies, Caltrans, county transportation agencies, cities, advocacy organizations, and MTC (Phase 1). In early 2024, staff will develop policy content and supporting documents, informed by the workshop and input from the RNM Council and other advisory bodies (Phase 2). Staff are targeting mid to late 2024 for policy adoption (Phase 3).

Table 2: Regional Transit Priority Policy Schedule

Phase 1 – Active Phase (Fall 2023)	Phase 2 (Winter/Spring 2024)	Phase 3 (Mid to late2024)
Early Coordination & Workshop	Policy Development	Policy Adoption

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information only.

Attachments:

- Attachment A (Presentation): “Update on Regional Transit Priority Efforts”
- Attachment B (Map): “BusAID Operator-Identified ‘Hotspot’ Point and Segment Locations”