



**DATE:** March 28, 2019

**TO:** Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director  
David Chan, Programming and Legislation Manager  
Derek McGill, Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** Allocate CMA Planning Funds to San Rafael for an Update to the Canal Neighborhood Community Based Transportation Plan (Action), Agenda Item 6b

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the allocation of \$75,000 in CMA Planning funds to San Rafael to update the Canal Neighborhood Community Based Transportation Plan and amend TAM's FY 18/19 Budget accordingly. CMA Planning funds for an update to the CBTP were provided by MTC as an amendment to TAM's existing CMA funding agreement, and these CMA Planning funds are being passed through to San Rafael.

On March 11, 2019, the Programming and Projects Executive Committee deliberated and recommended the TAM Board approve the allocation of \$75,000 in CMA Planning funds to San Rafael for updating the Canal Neighborhood Community Based Transportation Plan and amend TAM's FY 18/19 Budget to accommodate the allocation.

## **BACKGROUND**

Launched by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in 2002, the Community-Based Transportation Planning Program evolved out of two reports: the *Lifeline Transportation Network Report* (2001) and the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Justice Report*. The Lifeline Report identified basic travel needs in low-income communities in the Bay Area, and recommended community-based transportation planning as a way to set local priorities and evaluate options for filling transportation gaps.

Likewise, the Environmental Justice Report identified the need for MTC to support local planning efforts in low-income communities in the Bay Area. TAM initiated Community Based Transportation Planning efforts in two communities in 2006 through 2008- the Canal Neighborhood in San Rafael and the Marin City area of the County of Marin.

In 2015, TAM completed an update to the Marin City CBTP and added a new CBTP for the City of Novato. The three existing CBTPs include Marin City (2015), Canal Neighborhood in San Rafael (2006), and Novato (2015).

## **DISCUSSION**

In 2018, MTC provided supplemental CMA Planning funds to CMAs for updates to CBTP's and amended the CMA planning agreement to conduct updates or new CBTP's. With completion of the Marin City and Novato plans in 2015, TAM staff began working with the City of San Rafael to determine if there was interest in updating the Canal Neighborhood CBTP as part of the general plan process that the city is undertaking.

With the general plan process now underway, Community Development staff and TAM staff have been collaborating on development of the CBTP alongside the General Plan Process. The City of San Rafael Community Development staff have indicated support for this effort, as it may increase engagement with the larger general plan effort in this designated community of concern.

MTC has providing \$75,000 in CMA Planning funds to TAM through an amendment to the CMA planning agreement between TAM and MTC to conduct the update. The source of the CMA Planning funds is federal Surface Transportation Program (STP). Since San Rafael also received STP funding through an OBAG Priority Development Area Planning grant through ABAG/MTC, San Rafael would not encumber additional federal burdens to process these funds for its CBTP effort.

TAM's funding agreement would provide San Rafael \$75,000 in CMA Planning funds to complete the update to the CBTP. The city would be responsible to meet MTC requirements in developing the CBTP including:

- A CBTP must be developed through a meaningful and collaborative process involving residents of low-income and minority communities, community and faith-based organizations that provide services within these communities, transit operators, county congestion management agencies (CMAs), and MTC.
- The plan must identify gaps in service and infrastructure and prioritize needed operational and physical transportation improvements.
- Funding opportunities and an outline for an action plan for implementation must be included.
- Following the completion of a plan, the CBTP may be forwarded to applicable transit agencies, CMAs, MTC, and other relevant boards for consideration in future planning, funding, and implementation discussions or proposals.

### **Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP)**

An important outcome to this effort is that a new Community Based Transportation Plan with additional projects and programs will be developed for the Canal Neighborhood, but with no guarantee funding for these projects and programs.

TAM used to receive funds for the Lifeline Transportation Program and, for five cycles, distributed those funds to the projects and programs identified in the CBTP's such as this one. However, MTC has eliminated dedicated funds to the Lifeline Transportation Program in 2018, as covered in recent TAM Board actions.

One of the funding sources used by MTC to fund the Lifeline Transportation Program was State Transit Assistance (STA) funds. The STA funds are now scheduled to go the three Marin transit operators - Marin Transit, Golden Gate Transit, and SMART. They are the only eligible recipients of the STA funds.

San Rafael is aware of the need to develop funding through the City's own efforts for the CBTP projects and programs coming from this renewed effort in the Canal neighborhood. The effort in the Canal, as part of the City's general Plan update, gives these projects and programs potential for future City funds.

While TAM can no longer guarantee funding for CBTP projects and programs, TAM will work closely with the City in looking for viable fund sources in the future, at the City's request.

Lastly, even though STA funds are no longer dedicated to the Lifeline Transportation Program, the three Marin transit operators will be kept informed of remaining CBTP projects and programs. The transit operators will consider funding those projects and programs, particularly if the projects and programs align with the transit operators' missions.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

On March 11, 2019, the Programming and Projects Executive Committee recommended the TAM Board approve the allocation of \$75,000 in CMA Planning funds to San Rafael for updating the Canal Neighborhood Community Based Transportation Plan and amend TAM's FY 18/19 Budget to accommodate the allocation.

#### **FISCAL IMPACTS**

TAM's FY 18/19 Budget will need to be amended to include these funds for potential reimbursement requests from San Rafael in FY 18/19. TAM staff would participate in the development of the plan and invoice MTC for eligible expenses.

#### **NEXT STEP**

The Executive Director would sign the funding agreement with San Rafael to begin the CBTP plan development process and TAM's FY 18/19 Budget would be amended to accommodate the allocation.

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