



**DATE:** July 23, 2020

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

**FROM:** Anne Richman, Executive Director *Anne Richman*  
David Chan, Programming and Legislation Manager

**SUBJECT:** Allocate FY 20/21 Vehicle Registration Fee (Measure B) Funds to Marin Transit (Action), Agenda Item No. 8c

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Allocate \$1,075,000 in Vehicle Registration Fee (Measure B) funds to Marin Transit under Element 2 of the Measure B Strategic Plan for FY 20/21.

## **BACKGROUND**

In November 2010, Marin residents voted to pass the Measure B Vehicle Registration Fee to increase their annual vehicle registration fee by \$10 to help fund transportation improvements. The Measure B Strategic Plan, adopted in July 2011, was developed to explain how the funds will be distributed to each of the three elements, as well as the oversight process. The Revenue and Programming Element of the Measure B Strategic Plan is updated annually and reflected in TAM's annual budget.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Measure B Strategic Plan**

According to the Measure B Strategic Plan, thirty five percent (35%) of the funds will be distributed to Marin Transit, under Element 2, for use on Mobility Management programs and enhancements to the specialized transportation system for people with disabilities including older adults regardless of disability status.

Funds from Element 2 could be used to implement a Mobility Management Program that implements mobility options for seniors and persons with disabilities, support and enhance paratransit (e.g. Whistlestop Wheels), create a "Paratransit Plus" program to serve older seniors who may not qualify for service under the Americans With Disabilities Act, and implement other innovative programs to provide mobility to seniors as an alternative to driving. Projects and programs may include:

1. "Paratransit Plus" Subsidized Program for Older Seniors – provides mobility options for seniors 80 years and older who may no longer be safe drivers, have difficulty accessing transit, and may not qualify for ADA paratransit.
2. Volunteer Driver Programs Support – provides ongoing funding of volunteer driver programs for home-bound seniors.

3. Low Income Rider Scholarships – funds rides for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities through the Marin Access Mobility Management Center’s Ride Credit Bank and to help attract donated funds for this purpose.
4. “Gap-Grant” Program – provides a small source of competitive funding for local agencies to expand or implement new transportation services that meet the requirements of Measure B.
5. Mobility Management Staffing – provides sufficient program staff to design, implement, and manage Marin Transit’s mobility management efforts including:
  - Oversight of the Marin Access Mobility Management Center;
  - Leadership and support of the Marin Mobility Consortium and its various subcommittees;
  - Operation of the agency’s travel training programs;
  - Implementing and monitoring Mobility initiatives including:
    - Technical assistance in the areas of transportation operations, and coordination of transportation of resources to Marin’s community transportation providers;
    - On-going outreach on transportation resources and issues to Marin residents and stakeholder agencies; and
    - Represent Marin Transit and Marin Access at various meetings.

### **Funds Available**

In FY 20/21, the Revenue and Programming document shows \$1,078,000 available to Element 2, which is comprised of \$805,00 in anticipated new revenue and \$273,000 in projected carryover funds from previous years. The carryover is a projected figure because FY 19/20 has not been closed out, therefore, the actual carryover amount may be different from the projected amount. The entire amount of \$1,078,000 is available for allocation upon request. Any funds not requested are available for a supplemental allocation during the fiscal year or allowed to roll over and request a greater allocation next year.

### **Allocation Request**

Marin Transit submitted a FY 20/21 allocation request (Attachment A) for \$1,075,000 in Measure B funds to implement projects and programs under Element 2 of the Measure B Strategic Plan. Marin Transit is proposing the following scope of work:

- Manage the Mobility Management Program that identifies and implements mobility options for seniors and persons with disabilities - Marin Transit will provide sufficient program staff to design, implement, and manage Marin Transit’s mobility management efforts. Funds will also be used to promote the new Connect2Transit and Marin Commutes Program.
- Support and Enhance paratransit (e.g. Marin Access Paratransit, operated by Whistlestop) and other local services focused on this population – Marin Transit will fund Marin Access Travel Navigators, operations of mandated and non-mandated paratransit service.
- Manage a “Paratransit Plus” program to serve older seniors who may not qualify for service under that Americans with Disabilities Act - Marin Transit will continue the Marin Catch-A-Ride program for older adults who no longer drive and individuals that are eligible for ADA paratransit. This program will utilize taxi companies and other licensed providers to give partially subsidized rides that are coordinated through a taxi broker. This program is expected to provide 14,300 rides in FY 20/21.

- Implement other innovative programs to provide mobility to seniors as an alternative to driving - Marin Transit will use funding to continue the volunteer driver programs (STAR in East Marin and TRIP in West Marin) for home-bound seniors by providing mileage reimbursement to riders to give back to their drivers. These programs are expected to provide 14,000 trips in FY 20/21. Funds will also be used a Volunteer Driver Program Resource Center which supports and develops traditional community-based volunteer driver program.

The below table includes a summary of the FY 20/21 program activities and amounts of requested, available, and carryover funds.

<b>Element 2</b>	<b>Requested</b>
Mobility Management Program	\$100,000
Paratransit Support and Enhancement	\$205,000
Paratransit Plus	\$480,000
Alternative to Driving Program	\$290,000
<b>Total Requested</b>	<b>\$1,075,000</b>
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$1,078,000</b>
<b>Carryover</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

The requested amount was anticipated during the development of the FY 20/21 TAM Annual Budget and has been incorporated in its adoption in June 2020. No further action is needed at this time.

## **NEXT STEP**

Upon approval of the TAM Board, TAM and Marin Transit staff will work together to execute a funding agreement for the approved allocation amount.

## **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment A: FY 20/21 Marin Transit Allocation Request

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Attachment A

Transportation Authority of Marin  
Measure B – Vehicle Registration Fee

Allocation Request Form

**Fiscal Year of Allocation:** 2020/21

**Expenditure Plan:** Element 2

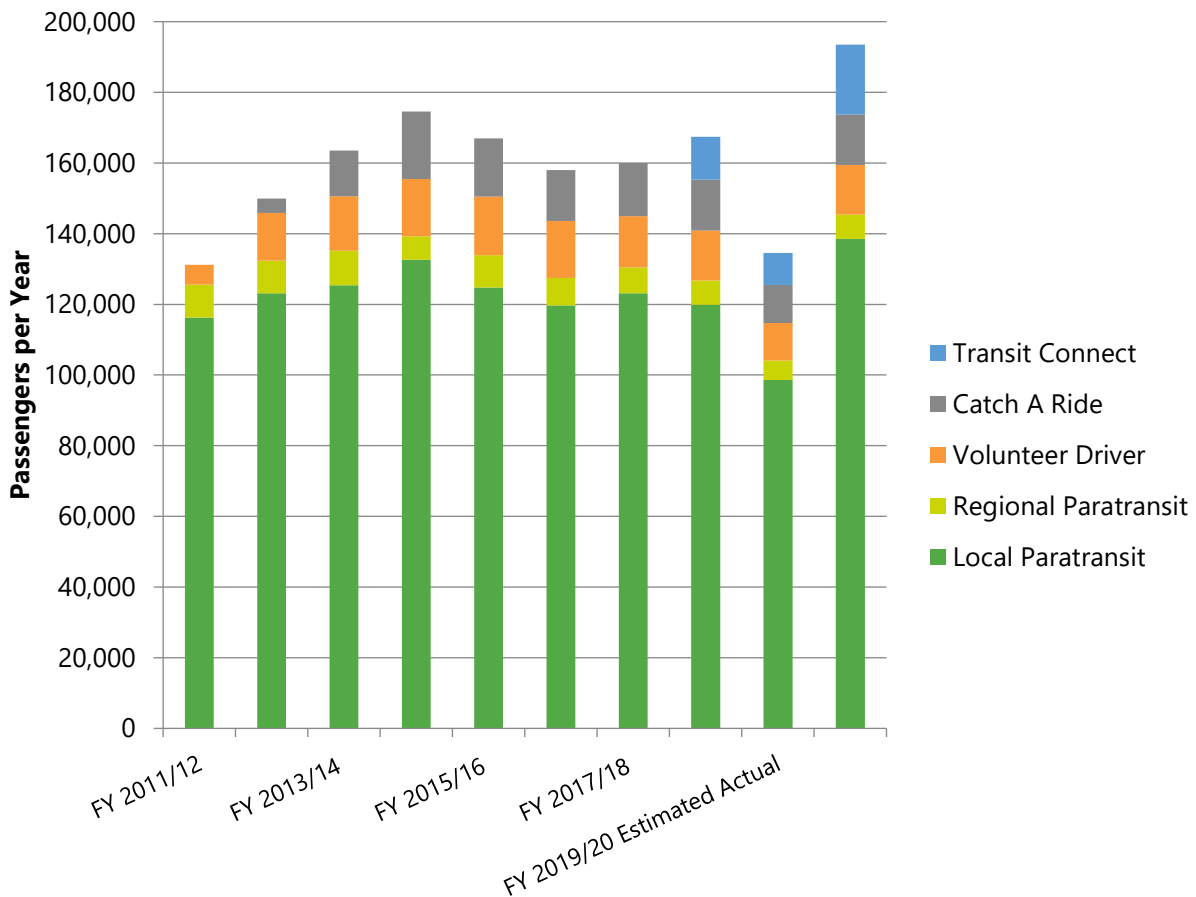
**Project Name:** Improve Transit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

**Implementing Agency:** Marin Transit

**Scope of Work:** Marin Transit will use FY 2020/21 Element 2, Measure B funds to continue successful Mobility Management Programs (Marin Access) for seniors and persons with disabilities (Figure 1). Building on Marin Transit’s prior mobility management efforts, the Measure B funding will be utilized to plan, market and operate specialized transportation services for Marin’s senior and disabled residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted demand for Marin Access services. While demand has slowly returned as shelter in place restrictions have been reduced, many Marin Access clients are the most vulnerable population and may be slow to return to prior mobility levels. Marin Transit’s FY 2020/21 budget, and this allocation request includes service levels based on demand prior to the pandemic. As Marin Transit is able to better predict demand levels and revenue impacts from the pandemic the budget for services may need to be adjusted. Marin Transit will only claim Measure B funds for service and programs that operate.

Figure 1: Mobility Provided through Marin Access Programs (trips per year)



## Attachment A

**Program Components:**

*Implementing a Mobility Management Program that identifies and implements mobility options for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities*

Estimated Measure B Expenditure: \$100,000

Marin Transit will provide sufficient program staff to design, implement, and manage Marin Transit's mobility management efforts including:

- Oversight of the Marin Access Mobility Management Center;
- Leadership and support of the Marin Mobility Consortium and its various subcommittees;
- Operation of the agency's travel training programs;
- Implementing and monitoring Mobility initiatives such as:
  - Technical assistance in the areas of specialized transportation operations, and coordination of transportation of resources to Marin's community transportation providers;
  - Travel training to introduce riders to fixed-route transit and provide them with the confidence and knowledge to ride on their own;
  - On-going outreach on transportation resources and issues to Marin residents and stakeholder agencies;
  - Promote Marin Transit and TAM's new Connect2Transit program;
  - Promote TAM's new Marin Commutes program; and
  - Represent Marin Transit and Marin Access at various meetings.

*Support and Enhance paratransit (e.g. Marin Access Paratransit, operated by Whistlestop) and other local services focused on this population*

Estimated Measure B Expenditure: \$205,000

Measure B will partially fund Marin Access Travel Navigators who provide a one-call, one-stop service for information and eligibility for all of the Marin Access programs.

Measure B funds will continue to support the operations of mandated and non-mandated local paratransit service.

Measure B will also provide funding for marketing and printing materials for the Marin Access program.

*Create a "Paratransit Plus" program to serve older seniors who may not qualify for service under the Americans with Disabilities Act*

Estimated Measure B Expenditure: \$480,000

Measure B funds will continue to support and expand accessible transportation that can take same day reservations. These funds pay for the Catch-A-Ride program to provide mobility to older adults, and individuals that are eligible for ADA paratransit. This program utilizes taxi companies and other licensed providers to give partially subsidized rides that are coordinated through a taxi broker. The program is expected to provide 14,300 rides in FY2020/21.

Measure B will provide support for the Transit Connect service. Transit Connect provides on-demand service to various locations including transit stops in Central and Northern Marin County using a ridesharing platform. This program is expected to provide 19,800 trips in FY2020/21.

## Attachment A

*Implement other innovative programs to provide mobility to seniors as an alternative to driving*

Estimated Measure B Expenditure: \$290,000

Marin Transit continues to use Measure B funding for volunteer driver programs (STAR in East Marin and TRIP in West Marin) that provide mileage reimbursement to riders to repay their driver. These programs are budget to be able to provide 14,000 trips in FY2020/21. COVID-19 may reduce demand for these services. Marin Transit dedicates a portion of Measure B funds to a Volunteer Driver Program Resource Center which supports and develops traditional community-based volunteer driver programs. One goal of the Resource Center is to expand and increase usage of volunteer driver programs countywide.

Marin Transit has reworked the "Gap-Grant" Program as the "Marin Access Innovation Incubator" to achieve an emphasis on program sustainability and avoid duplicating services already offered by the District. These funds will continue to provide a small source of competitive funding for local agencies to support, expand or implement new transportation services that meet the requirements of Measure B. In early FY 20/21, Marin Transit will release an open call for projects that will allow stakeholders to propose projects that improve mobility for residents of Marin County. The call for projects will be posted to the MCTD website and will be publicized through our stakeholder networks including the Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council and the Marin Mobility Consortium. Staff recognize that applicants may need technical assistance and support to identify projects; staff will work with applicants to develop their applications as appropriate to ensure that funds are allocated to the most promising projects.

Marin Transit has moved the low-income fare assistance program to this Measure B component since, with recent fare changes, the fare credits will no longer be limited to travel on paratransit. The Low Income Fare Assistance will be able to be used for travel on all both Paratransit and Catch-A-Ride. In July 2020 Marin Transit will implement an expanded LIFA program that is streamlined to make it easier to administer and navigate for applicants and eligible users. Changes to eligibility requirements for the LIFA program are anticipated to increase the number of eligible riders that can utilize the program and the subsidies provided.

Expenditures are estimated by program components, but actual expense may shift based on the implementation schedule of each program. Total expenditures will not exceed the allocation amount.

**Strategic Plan Update Programmed for FY 20/21:** \$1,078,000

**Requested Amounts:** \$1,075,000

**Cash flow Availability:** 100% of Measure B funds available for reimbursement in FY 2020/21.

**Other Funds:** \$0

**Project Delivery Schedule:** July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

**Environmental Clearance:** Not Applicable

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