



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 10, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services Department

Subject: Grant: Alameda County Transportation Commission for Measure B Paratransit Revenue

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to receive funds and execute any agreements and amendments with the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) for the renewal of Measure B annual pass-through funds estimated to be in the amount of \$257,396 for use during FY 2015.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

As a result of the Measure B one-half cent transportation sales tax, Berkeley Paratransit Services will receive grant revenue in the estimated amount of \$257,396 (to be deposited in revenue code 393-7917-338-01-01) for FY 2015. This year's estimated grant revenue will increase by \$5,218 from the FY 2014 estimated grant of \$252,178 due to an increase in sales tax. The FY 2015 proposed budget also includes approximately \$120,000 in General Funds.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In FY 2013, the City revised the paratransit program to align with Alameda CTC's implementing guidelines. In July 2012, to comply with guidelines, the City expanded its eligibility criteria. The program continues to serve seniors from ages 70 to 79 who are at or below 30% of area median income and now also serves seniors above the age of 80, and any transit-disabled person, regardless of income. The change in eligibility has resulted in increased enrollment; from July 2012 through July 2013, 171 new residents were enrolled. Based on current enrollment, 156 residents are expected to enroll in FY 2014. This exceeds the number of new enrollees prior to the change in eligibility (81 enrolled in FY 2012). A continued increase in enrollment is expected for FY 2015. Additional revenue should provide the ability to serve the increased numbers enrolled due to revised eligibility requirements.

The City will continue the current paratransit programs and services, including: (a) the Taxi Scrip Program, which provides paratransit riders the ability to acquire demand-response transportation from taxicab companies throughout the San Francisco Bay

Area; (b) the Wheelchair-Van Program, which provides transportation for wheelchair riders in wheelchair-accessible vans that accept reimbursement through the program; (c) the East Bay Paratransit Ticket Service, which provides a limited number of tickets for Berkeley residents who are certified by East Bay Paratransit; and (d) the Medical Return Transportation Improvement Program (MrTrip), which provides scrip and wheelchair-van ride vouchers for taxicab or wheelchair-accessible van rides for Berkeley paratransit riders who are returning from health-related appointments.

BACKGROUND

Demands for alternative transportation for residents with disabilities and seniors are significant. To address this demand, Alameda County voters approved the reauthorization of Measure B in 2000, which enables Alameda CTC to continue to administer the proceeds from a one-half cent transportation sales tax. The inception date for the new Measure B was April 1, 2002. During FY 2012, Alameda CTC issued implementing guidelines for paratransit funds, with direction that fund recipients must align with the implementing guideline. To meet the implementing guidelines, an invitation to a town hall meeting about the City's FY 2015 paratransit plan was mailed to each enrollee in the December 2013 Taxi Scrip mailer. Participants were presented with an opportunity at the town hall meeting to review and give staff input on Berkeley residents' demands for alternative transportation. The paratransit plan was also presented to the City of Berkeley Commission on Aging on January 15, 2014 and Commission on Disability on January 8, 2014 where it was also reviewed and input was given.

The City's FY 2015 paratransit plan maintains the existing programs and services, and maintains the expanded eligibility to all income levels for those aged 80 and above, and paratransit-disabled of any age. The estimated grant amount of \$257,396 is based on Alameda CTC's revenue projection but the actual grant amount is not yet determined. Benefit levels will be subject to review and change during the year, dependent upon demand and budget constraints.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Approximately 30% of the available taxi fleet is hybrid / low emissions vehicles.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Without these funds, people with disabilities and senior citizens over the age of 70 who have difficulty using either transit buses or BART would lose a critical resource that allows them to connect with community services.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Leah Talley, Manager of Aging Services, HH&CS, 510-981-5178

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

APPROVE MEASURE B PARATRANSIT PROGRAM SUBMITTAL AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ANY OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (ALAMEDA CTC)

WHEREAS, Alameda County voters approved Measure B in November 2000, which provides funds for alternative transportation services for residents with disabilities and senior residents; and

WHEREAS, the inception date of Measure B was April 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is an eligible applicant for Measure B non-mandated Funds (i.e., annual pass-through funds) for use during FY 2015; and

WHEREAS, Measure B Funds are necessary to maintain the program currently in place that provides alternative transportation, direct rides, taxi scrip and wheelchair-van ride vouchers, and other services to Berkeley residents with disabilities and senior residents; and

WHEREAS, the amount of grant revenue from annual paratransit pass-through funds for FY 2014 is expected to total approximately \$257,396 to be deposited in revenue code 393-7917-338-01-01.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the 12-month Measure B program plan is hereby approved to continue to operate and to expand the programs and services to support the alternative transportation for Berkeley residents with disabilities and senior residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to accept estimated grant revenue of \$257,396, and execute the resultant grant agreement and amendments.

