



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 27, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing and Community Services Department

Subject: Grant: Alameda County Transportation Commission for Measure B and Measure BB 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 (estimated \$281,715) and Measure BB (estimated \$290,132) annual pass-through funds, and execute resulting contracts for services with Easy Does It.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

As a result of the one-half cent Measure B and one-half cent Measure BB transportation sales tax, Berkeley Paratransit Services will receive grant revenue estimated at \$571,847 (Measure B to be deposited in revenue code 393-7917-338-0101 and Measure BB in 408-7917-338-0103) for FY 2018. The estimated total grant amount of \$571,847 is based on Alameda CTC's revenue projection but the actual grant amount is not yet determined. The FY 2018 proposed Paratransit program budget, part of the larger HHCS Department budget, also includes \$100,000 in General Funds.

Wheelchair van services are provided by one subcontractor: Easy Does It (393-7917-463-30-38 and 408-7917-463-30-38) (CMS# XWNJ4). Taxi companies are reimbursed through a customer service window and invoice payments (393-7917-463-30-38 and 408-7917-463-30-38). Staff costs are tracked in 010-7917-463-various; 393-7917-463-various; and 408-7917-463-various.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Measure B and Measure BB 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. Receiving Measure B and BB funds is contingent upon developing an annual Paratransit Plan.

Staff presented the paratransit plan to the City of Berkeley Commission on Aging on March 15, 2017 and will present to the Commission on Disability in July 2017. The plan was presented to the Alameda County Transportation Commission Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee (PAPCO) on Wednesday, May 9, 2017.

The FY 2018 proposed plan will expand existing programs and improve current programs to respond to community needs. Berkeley Paratransit Services currently supports the transportation needs of about 1,000 seniors and disabled Berkeley residents each year. The FY18 plan includes:

Measure B Programs	Benefits (per person)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxi Scrip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$480 in taxi scrip annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheelchair Van Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 64 Van Vouchers annually
MEASURE BB Programs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Medical Need Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$120 in taxi scrip each month for paratransit members with frequent medical appointments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental Taxi Scrip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental taxi scrip to paratransit members in need of additional resources. Up to \$360 per year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore demand/feasibility for additional Shopper Shuttles to add neighborhood-based shopping transit assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trips per year to be determined.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve payment for Taxi Drivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved payment system will benefit both Taxi Providers and consumers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of accessible vehicle to support Wheelchair Van program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide additional accessible rides through Wheelchair Van Program.

Benefit levels will be subject to review and may change during the year, dependent upon demand and budget constraints.

Wheelchair van services are managed through a subcontract with Easy Does It. In previous years, Friendly Transportation was an additional wheelchair van provider; effective in FY17, Friendly Transportation no longer provides wheelchair lift rides. The wheelchair van program is in need of additional vehicles due to loss of Friendly Transportation as a provider, and Easy Does It currently has one operating vehicle to support the paratransit and emergency services programs.

BACKGROUND

At the beginning of FY15, the Aging Services Division conducted a community needs assessment on the transportation needs of paratransit-eligible community members and current paratransit users. The needs assessment recommended that the Paratransit Program further explore the development of a shuttle service in Berkeley.

The Aging Services Division hired transportation consultants Nelson Nygaard to continue and expand upon this needs assessment through an analysis of best practices for shuttle services; conducting a deeper, focused community needs assessment and analysis of all transportation options in Berkeley. Focused community input was provided through a community meeting held in February. Analysis of best practices, community input, and review of transportation options resulted in the following findings:

- A high level of transportation services exist in Berkeley, including community shuttles not well known (West Berkeley and UC Berkeley);
- Taxis are challenged in the current operating environment by alternate transportation services provided by transportation network companies;
- Public information about the taxi scrip program isn't readily available;
- There may be other more efficient and effective ways to increase transportation options other than shuttle services;
- The existing taxi scrip program has some limitations that impact user mobility (return trips from outside Berkeley are challenging);
- Community members continue to place a high value on:
 - Equitable and flexible transportation options
 - Improving accessible van availability and taxi experience

The Aging Services Division will continue the work with Nelson Nygaard during Phase II of the Transportation Assessment project. Phase II will include developing strategies to encourage more shared rides; recommending fare/payment options for the taxi scrip program (local and out-of-town trips); developing strategies for expanding an accessible fleet; defining approaches for administration, oversight and coordination of the Berkeley Paratransit Program based on program enhancements; and identifying other opportunities for improving the mobility of Berkeley seniors and the disabled community.

Accessible transportation is supplemented in Berkeley with the Wheelchair Van program. The program conducted a Request for Qualifications in FY15 and contracted with Easy Does It and Friendly Transportation to provide Wheelchair Van services. Friendly Transportation no longer provides accessible transportation, leaving Easy Does It as the sole provider of Wheelchair Van services; the vehicle fleet for Easy Does It is aging past usefulness.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Without these funds, senior citizens over the age of 70 and people with disabilities who have difficulty using public transportation would lose a critical resource that allows them to access essential community services.

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ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Leah Talley, Manager of Aging Services, 981-5178

Attachments:

1. Resolution

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

APPROVE MEASURE B AND MEASURE BB 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) AND RESULTING CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES

WHEREAS, Alameda County voters approved Measure B in November 2000 and Measure BB in November 2014, which provides funds for alternative transportation services for seniors and residents with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is an eligible recipient for Measure B and Measure BB non-mandated Funds (i.e., annual pass-through funds) for use during FY 2018; and

WHEREAS, Measure B and Measure BB 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 2018 is expected to total approximately \$571,847: Measure B to be deposited in revenue code 393-7917-338-0101 (estimated \$281,715) and Measure BB to be deposited in revenue code 408-7917-338-0103 (estimated \$290,132); and

WHEREAS, wheelchair van services are managed through a subcontract with Easy Does It (393-7917-463-30-38 and 408-7919-463-30-38), and expenses for Wheelchair Van services will not exceed \$50,000 annually and are part of CMS number XWNJ4; and

WHEREAS, and taxi companies are reimbursed through a customer service window and invoice payments (393-7917-463-30-38 and 408-7919-463-30-38); and

WHEREAS, one sole provider remains to support the Wheelchair Van program (Easy Does It), and Easy Does It currently has only one operating vehicle.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the 12-month Measure B/Measure BB 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 or her designee is hereby authorized to accept estimated grant revenue of \$571,847, and execute the resultant grant agreement and amendments and subcontracts for services including the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van for Easy Does It.

