

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Release “Call for Projects” for the Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP)</b>
<b>Summary of Issues</b>	<p>The purpose of the LTP is to fund projects that result in improved mobility for low-income residents of Contra Costa. Authority staff has prepared a draft “Call for Projects” for review by PC, and release on September 19, 2008. A total of \$9.1 million is expected to be available to Contra Costa through MTC from a variety of federal and State funding sources over a three year funding cycle. The amount is subject to the STA funding in the state budget once approved. The program is proposed to be conducted in a method similar to the first cycle with two exceptions. First, MTC is requiring a new criterion for project consideration which requires some level of consideration be given to projects derived from community based transportation plans (CBTP). MTC is allowing counties to establish targets for this funding by operator service areas, on a formula basis, as long as the funds are applied based on evaluation criteria for projects which meet the Lifeline requirements. The JARC funding must still be distributed on a purely competitive basis.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorize the release of the Contra Costa LTP Call for Projects on September 19, 2008.</li> <li>2. Approve the new proposed project ranking criteria and weighting of each criterion.</li> </ol>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>MTC has allocated a total of \$74.7 million to LTP for the Bay Area. Contra Costa’s portion of 12.5%, or \$9.1 million, is based upon the percentage of households at or below the federal poverty level as reported in the 2000 U.S. Census. Funds cover the three-year cycle spanning FY09 through FY11. Additional funding is expected for future cycles. The current amount is subject to the STA funding approved in the State budget this year.</p>
<b>Options</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider revisions to the Call for Projects and/or project ranking criteria.</li> <li>2. Consider geographic “funding targets” to provide an equitable distribution of LTP funds throughout the county, particularly if targets can be agreed-upon among Contra Costa’s five operators.</li> </ol>
<b>Attachments ( See PC Packet dated 9/3/08)</b>	A. Draft “Call for Projects” for the Lifeline Transportation Program
<b>Changes from Committee</b>	<i>Approved</i>

**Background**

The LTP is a \$9.1 million grant program intended to address gaps and/or barriers in transportation for low-income communities, and to improve the range of travel choices available to the people of those communities. Projects should be developed through a collaborative and open planning process, and must be drawn from available Community–Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs), countywide or regional Welfare–to–Work Transportation Plans (WWTPs), or otherwise documented assessment of needs within communities of concern.

The selection of projects for the three-year cycle of funds (2009 through 2011) will be made during October and November 2008. Additional funds for Lifeline Transportation are expected to be allotted every three years thereafter. Project selection will be conducted by a Lifeline Transportation Review Committee, which will forward its recommendations to the PC for review and discussion.

The make-up of the review committee is proposed to remain the same as the first cycle as:

- CCTA staff person (1)
- County Board of Supervisors staff appointee (1)
- TCC appointee (1)
- Bus Transit Coordinating Committee appointee (1)
- Transportation Alliance appointee (1)
- One member each from a Community Based Organization (CBO) that played a significant role in the CBTP for each designated Community of Concern (3 to 6)<sup>1</sup>
- A representative from the County Employment and Human Services Department (1) and
- Contra Costa’s representative on MTC’s Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) (1).

**Ranking Criteria**

In this cycle MTC has added a required ranking criterion for project review. MTC is requiring that a factor be included so that a project that is derived directly from a Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) be given a higher score under that criterion than a project which comes from a plan other than a CBTP. With this new requirement, Contra Costa’s weighted scoring from the first cycle needs to be adjusted to accommodate the new criterion. The following table shows the first cycle criteria and weights and the proposed criteria and weighting for the current cycle.

Ranking Criteria	1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle Weight	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle Weight (Proposed)
Project Need/Stated Goals and Objectives	20%	20%
Implementation		
• <i>For applicants seeking funding for operations - OR - For applicants seeking funding for programs and capital projects</i>	10%	10%
• <i>Demand</i>	20%	15%
Total Implementation	30%	25%

<sup>1</sup> Designated Communities of Concern with active CBTP’s include the Richmond Area; Antioch-Pittsburg-Baypoint; and the Monument Corridor. The remaining areas of Martinez and East Brentwood may be included upon identification of an active CBTP stakeholder.

Project Budget/Sustainability	10%	10%
Coordination and Program Outreach	15%	15%
Program and Cost-effectiveness	10%	10%
Leverage Outside Funds	5%	5%
Project Readiness	10%	10%
Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) Priority	-----	5%

### County-wide Service Area Targets for Transit Funding

This cycle of Lifeline funding contains a significant amount (95%) of STA and Proposition 1B Transit Capital funds that can only be claimed by a transit operator; therefore MTC is allowing those funds to be distributed to transit operators by formula. The transit operator must still submit an application for review to determine that the project meets the overall goals of the LTP – that is providing services to low-income communities of concern. The JARC funding source would not be subject to any formula and will be distributed countywide by competitive application.

This issue is particularly significant in this cycle because of the current decline in transit funding resulting from the State budget crisis. All of Contra Costa county’s bus operators are facing possible service cuts which are likely to include cuts to routes which provide services to low-income passengers. These LTP funds would help offset funding losses and service cuts to those communities.

Establishing “funding targets” by operator service area could create a more equitable opportunity for low-income residents countywide to receive improvements in service. These “funding targets” would not be guaranteed to any one operator but could be applied for by any eligible operator(s) within the geographic service area. The project applications would still be scored but the targets would provide the ranking committee an opportunity to disburse the funds fairly throughout the county

The “funding target” would need to be established on a formula basis. The transit operators have been meeting to discuss possible distribution formulas but have yet to agree on one. Should the operators agree to a distribution targets prior to application review it could be beneficial to the project ranking committee. Without such targets the applications would be ranked from a countywide pool.

Additional background material is included in the Program Guidelines and list of Frequently Asked Questions (Attachment A).

### Schedule

The overall schedule for the LTP “Call for Projects” is as follows:

September 4	Workshop for Applicants
September 18	The Authority’s TCC reviews the Draft Call for Projects
September 19	Issue Call for Projects
<b>October 17</b>	<b><i>Application Deadline 1:00 p.m.</i></b>
October 20-24	Projects reviewed by staff and LTP Task Force
November 5	Projects reviewed by the Authority’s Planning Committee

	November 12	Deadline to submit Project Commitment to Authority
	November 19	Authority reviews project list and directs staff to submit recommended projects to MTC

**Next Steps**

Following approval by the Authority Board, staff will release the Call for Projects on September 19, 2008. Shortly thereafter, Authority staff will convene the Lifeline Transportation Review Committee to prepare for the project review and selection process.