

Motion by Directors Dubois, O'Connor, Najarian and Yaroslavsky

Planning and Programming Committee Agenda Item No. 9

Call for Projects

In June 2009, the MTA Board approved \$330 million by mode for the Call for Projects. As frequently is the case, the TDM category, as well as Signal Synchronization, was overfunded by \$17.7 million primarily due to a lack of meritorious projects. The \$17.7 million was transferred to other modal categories and additional projects were awarded. Project sponsors were notified and included in the final Call for Projects "rainbow" report for distribution throughout the county.

The fund transfers were based on the lack of meritorious projects in the TDM mode and the lack of meritorious projects or projects that were too complex and costly in Signal Synchronization and the abundance of meritorious projects in the receiver modes.

Additionally, project scoring is not consistent through the different modal categories, this creates confusion for project sponsors who receive the same score in different modal categories yet one project is deemed fundable and another isn't. Furthermore, while agencies can appeal their score to the Technical Advisory Committee, additional monies are not available to fund a project through the appeal process. All funds have already been programmed and the granting of an appeal would require either a project being removed from funding consideration or would receive a lower level of funding.

Lastly, there are a number of worthy projects in the respective categories that are immediately below the threshold of funding that could be funded through the near term de-obligation of Call funds in the respective categories.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE the following:

- Report back to the Board through the LRTP at a recommended funding level for TDM projects that reflects the historical project funding level for meritorious and productive projects. The report should recommend an adjustment to levels of funding in the LRTP for TDM and future CFP accordingly.
- Report back to the Board on strategies for working with local jurisdictions, COGs and other groups to produce fundable and phased Signal Synchronization projects for the next Call for Projects, recognizing that signal synchronization and bus-signal priority are cost effective tools in

maximizing existing infrastructure, reducing congestion and reduction of green-house gases.

- Report back to the Board on establishing a “reserve” fund in future Call for Projects for meritorious projects that were denied funding, but were successfully granted an appeal. This “reserve” fund should range between 5-10% depending of the total Call for Projects.
- That in future Call for Projects, any funding mark changes between mode be brought back to the Board for approval prior to the reallocation of funds and awarding of projects and notification to project sponsors.
- In future Call for Projects scoring be normalized so “fundable” and “nonfundable” projects fall within the same approximate scoring range.
- That the Board Approve Item 9 and apply a policy provision that as Call funds become de-obligated in specific categories in the next two years, those de-obligated funds will be applied to the projects next in line under the threshold of Approval in that respective category.