

TO: WCCTAC Board

MEETING DATE: July 26, 2019

FR: John Nemeth, Executive Director

RE: **New Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP)**

REQUESTED ACTION

Provide feedback on the Initial Draft TEP. Consider directing staff to send an additional letter to CCTA.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) is developing a Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) for a potential sales tax measure that may go before voters on the March 3, 2020 primary election ballot. On July 11, 2019, the CCTA publically released its Initial Draft TEP (which was distributed at the June 12th WCCTAC Board meeting and has been posted on the WCCTAC website under that meeting date). The WCCTAC Board met the following day, on July 12, 2019, to discuss the Initial Draft TEP. The WCCTAC Board directed staff to provide its feedback to CCTA via a letter, which is included in this meeting's Board Packet. As of July 25, 2019, the Authority had not responded to that letter. The Authority met again on July 17, 2019 and made some new adjustments to the TEP. The WCCTAC Board now has an opportunity to consider those new adjustments, and provide any other additional feedback as desired.

New Guiding Principle

CCTA added a new principle, Economic Opportunity, to its list of guiding principles. It is included on page 2 of Attachment A under the "A ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE" section. The CCTA does not have a policy to go along with this new principle but may add job creation as a criteria in future funding guidelines. Some TEP categories could also be modified to include references to actions that could result in additional jobs. CCTA Executive Director, Iwasaki, expressed some concern about adding criteria that could make the measure's funding processes more complicated. He cited the onerous requirements of federal funding as an example of something to be wary of. Nevertheless, the Commission voted unanimously to include the new principle.

New Funding Category

CCTA also added a new funding category for all subregions called, "Improve Transportation and Access to Job Centers". The Commission voted to include it on a split vote at its July 17, 2019 meeting. The description of the category is included as Attachment B but is so far loosely defined by the Authority. On July 18, 2019, TRANSPAC (the Central County RTPC) met and later recommended to CCTA that this new category not be included in the TEP. It's position is that

the entire measure could be considered a boost to job creation. The WCCTAC Board could take a position on this proposed category, although WCCTAC staff does not have a recommendation.

Adjustment to Funding Allocations to Fit New Category

CCTA has recommended that this new category be allocated \$10M in West Contra Costa. This change will require reductions in other categories. CCTA has proposed a reduction of \$11M in the *Seamless Connected Transportation Options* category in West County to accommodate the new category. The table below shows the previous funding allocation proposed by CCTA, which WCCTAC was generally in alignment with, along with the newly proposed allocation:

Funding Category	Previous CCTA Allocation (in millions)	New Proposed CCTA Allocation (in millions)	Difference
Fix and Modernize Local Roads and <u>Improve Access to Jobs and Housing</u>	\$101	\$101	-
Increase Bus Services and Reliability in West Contra Costa	\$187	\$187	-
Improve Transit Reliability along I-80	\$90	\$90	-
Cleaner, Safer BART	\$43	\$43	-
e-BART cars	-	-	-
Enhance Ferry and Commuter Rail in Contra Costa	\$34	\$34	-
Relieve Congestion and Improve Local Access along I-80 Corridor	\$57	\$57	-
Improve Traffic Flow and Local Access to Richmond-San Rafael Bridge along I-580 and Richmond Parkway	\$19	\$19	-
Improve Walking and Biking on Streets and Trails	\$51	\$51	-
Affordable Transportation for Seniors, Veterans, and People with Disabilities	\$41	\$41	-
Safe Transportation for Youth and Students	\$27	\$27	-
Seamless Connected Transportation Options	\$16	\$5	-\$11
Improve Traffic Flow on Major Roads	\$10	\$10	-
Reduce Emissions and Improve Air Quality	\$8	\$9	+1
<u>Improve Transportation and Access to Job Centers</u>	-	\$10	+\$10
Transportation Planning, Facilities, & Services	\$21	\$21	-
Administration	\$7	\$7	-
Total	\$712	\$712	

Flexible Funding Category

In its most recent letter to the Authority, WCCTAC expressed concern with the elimination of the Regional Transportation Priorities category which would have provided a small amount of flexible dollars to subregions. This could be used by WCCTAC as “seed money” for grant matches, which would allow WCCTAC to leverage additional dollars for West County.

The WCCTAC Board did not insist on the reinstatement of this category, given the known desire of the Authority to keep the TEP streamlined. However, WCCTAC sought a creative solution, such as keeping funding categories flexible enough to be tapped for grant matches, or establishing a West County fund within the “Transportation Planning” category that West County could utilize for grant matches. To date, WCCTAC has not received a response from the Authority. Staff recommends a reiteration of this concern

Attachments:

A: CCTA’s Updated “Guiding Principles”

B: CCTA’s Description of the “Improve Transportation and Access to Job Centers” category.

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MISSION

To advance transportation, ease congestion, and prepare Contra Costa County for future safe mobility.

VISION

Strive to preserve and enhance the quality of life of local communities with integrated, reliable, and accessible transportation that optimizes the existing transportation system, leverages emerging technologies and provides seamless multimodal choices.

BUILDING A NEW TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

We strive to achieve this vision and fulfill our mission by focusing on the following goals:

- ✓ **Ease traffic congestion**, improve freeway traffic flow, and reduce bottlenecks.
- ✓ **Make public transportation more accessible**, convenient, and affordable for seniors, students, commuters, and the disabled; and provide better mobility options for all.
- ✓ **Optimize the transportation system**, enhance local, regional, and express bus service; improve connections between modes; and leverage technology.
- ✓ **Improve air quality, create jobs, and generate economic benefits**; increase personal quality time and overall quality of life.
- ✓ **Repave local streets, repair potholes, and synchronize signals**; smooth traffic, improve neighborhood streets and intersections, and enhance bike and pedestrian connections.

A ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (Authority) will apply the following principles to meet the goals of a potential new local transportation sales tax measure for Contra Costa County:

-  **Performance Orientation.** Use transportation sales tax to achieve defined outcomes and benefits most sought by residents and businesses. Funding will flow to the best opportunities consistent with other Guiding Principles.
-  **Maximize Available Funding.** Proactively seek regional, state, and federal funding and private investments to supplement the county's local sales tax revenue, thereby maximizing the total amount of funding for transportation projects in Contra Costa County.
-  **Public Participation.** Conduct a public outreach program that collects input from stakeholders, residents and the communities throughout Contra Costa County and respond accordingly with meaningful action.



Commitment to Technology and Innovation. Keep Contra Costa County on the cutting edge of transportation technology by continuing to incorporate advanced technologies and emerging innovations into the transportation system.



Accountability and Transparency. Strive for excellence in protecting the public's investment and shall routinely engage with partner organizations, advisory committees, and the county's residents and businesses to ensure full transparency.



Commitment to Growth Management. Administer countywide policies that support thoughtful growth management to sustain Contra Costa's economy, preserve its environment, and support its communities.



Balanced and Equitable Approach. Balance the needs and benefits for all people and areas of Contra Costa County to provide an equitable and sustainable transportation system.



Economic Opportunity. Recognize that adding jobs closer to residents' homes can reduce commute times, greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Consider making sales tax revenue available in expenditure categories to partially fund transportation infrastructure that is likely to result in significant job growth, such as the Northern Waterfront.

BENEFITS OF FUTURE MOBILITY

Investments will be well defined to achieve the following defined benefits of a potential new local transportation sales tax measure. While specific benefits will be developed upon conducting public opinion research, possible benefits may include:



Improve Pavement Condition. Smoother roads in Contra Costa County.



Improve Air Quality. Reduce the number of vehicles on the road and encourage the use of zero emission vehicles.



Mode Share and Increased Transit Trips. Expand safe, convenient and affordable alternatives to the single occupant vehicle.



Improve Transit Efficiency and Accessibility. Provide more frequent, reliable and on-demand transit services.



Improve Mobility. Maximize efficiency of the transportation system by increasing movement of more people and goods through vital congested corridors.



Reduce Travel Times and Improve Travel Time Reliability on Congested Corridors.



Improve Economic Activity and Create Jobs. Transportation sales tax investments could result in direct and indirect economic benefits, including jobs, business expansion and attract new businesses.

Attachment B
Description of New TEP Category, per CCTA
7/22/19

Improve Transportation and Access to Job Centers:

If people live closer to their jobs, they have less need to commute long distances, thereby reducing traffic congestion and Green House Gas emissions. CCTA will implement and administer a new program in conjunction with its existing Measure J Transportation for Livable Communities Program. Transportation programs and projects funded out of this category will promote affordable housing and housing within planned or established centers that are supported by transit, or that support economic development and job creation in Contra Costa County.

Funding will also incentivize employers to create local jobs, and promote transit, shared trips, telecommuting and shifting work schedules, all with the intent of reducing commuter traffic at peak commute times. Funding is intended to match regional, state, or federal grants and private-sector investment to achieve maximum benefits.