



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



May 9, 2007

Hon. Adrienne Tissier, Chair, and Members
Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC)
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
1010 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: MTC Draft Funding Proposal for Proposition 1B Regional Transit Funding

Chair Tissier and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, and our Transportation Committee, supports the four categories identified for the use of these funds. Lifeline service, urban core projects, funding of small transit operators (both capital and operations) and zero-emission buses

Our concerns about the staff proposals include the following:

- Within the major categories identified, we hope there will be further clarification of the specific outcomes anticipated as actual funds are appropriated.
- The proposed package should remain flexible for adjustments in circumstances or priorities. We note that a reserve has been provided, but other adjustments may be needed:
 - New information from the 2010 Census, including that which should impact distribution of the "Lifeline" funds, should be available by 2012, only halfway through the proposed ten-year cycle.
 - The continuing rise in gas prices will have an unknown impact on transit ridership over coming years. Some additional flexibility for future ridership changes should be factored in.
 - It is our understanding that federal regulations regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are currently under review and may be changed.
- Lifeline programs should be expanded with an appropriate balance between operating funds and funding for capital acquisitions. New equipment, without the support for operations, will not accomplish the goal of providing service to those who have no other transportation options.
- We note the absence of urban core projects that benefit Oakland and its residents.
- LWVBA concurs with others that the Transbay Terminal project should be re-considered as eligible for this funding, as it is a critical multi-modal center for regional transportation of all types.

Thank you for considering our comments and concerns.

Linda Craig, President
LWV of the Bay Area