

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Continued Participation in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Clipper START! Pilot Program

FROM: Tony McCaulay, Director of Planning and Marketing

DATE: July 10, 2023

Action Requested

Authorize the Executive Director to provide the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with a resolution indicating LAVTA's desire to continue to participate in MTC's Clipper START! pilot program.

Background

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) established a pilot program to offer discounted transit fares to low income individuals. Known as Clipper START!, the program allows adults who live in the Bay Area and whose annual earnings are up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to qualify. The pilot was originally approved for an 18-month period scheduled to end in mid-January 2022 and later extended through June 30, 2023. MTC staff has proposed, and on June 28 the MTC Commission approved, another extension of the pilot program through June 2025.

Discussion

In November 2020, the LAVTA Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to notify MTC of our desire to participate in this pilot program. However, because of the pandemic, the funding allocated to the pilot had not been expended. In July 2021, the LAVTA Board approved a resolution to extend the end date for our participation in the pilot program to June 30, 2023. MTC's latest proposed extension requires another LAVTA Board resolution.

In addition to extending our participation in the pilot program through June 2025, the East Bay operators (LAVTA, County Connection, Tri-Delta Transit and WestCat) as well as BART are all recommending adjusting the fare discount available through the program from the current 20% to 50% effective in January 2024. The majority of Bay Area Transit agencies either were already at a 50% discount or are moving in that direction.

Budget

Riders using the Clipper START! card will receive a 50 percent discount on fares beginning January 2024. We view the program as an opportunity to assist Tri-Valley residents who may be economically challenged and support continued participation.

Despite extensive outreach about the program by MTC, utilization has been very low to date. MTC will continue to provide compensation to agencies participating in the program to fund part of the foregone revenue. Our current annual financial impact has been approximately \$250. Even with the increased discount and an increase in program utilization, we would not expect the annual financial impact to exceed \$2,500.

Recommendation

The Projects and Services Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to provide the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with a resolution indicating LAVTA’s desire to continue to participate in MTC’s Clipper START! pilot program.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 18-2023

Approved: _____

RESOLUTION 18-2023

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LIVERMORE
AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING CONTINUED
PARTICIPATION IN THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION'S CLIPPER START! PILOT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area pursuant to Government Code Section 66500 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, transit affordability has been highlighted as a regional issue in MTC's Coordinated Plan, Plan Bay Area and other plans; and

WHEREAS, MTC has established the regional framework for the Regional Means-Based Transit Fare Pilot Program to improve transit affordability and access to opportunity for eligible low-income residents; and

WHEREAS, MTC has adopted a regional framework for the program, with participating operators, funding guidelines, and program conditions, pursuant to MTC Resolution No. 4320, Revised, to guide implementation of the Clipper START! Pilot Program through June 2023 and is proposing to extend the pilot through June 2025; and

WHEREAS, LAVTA recommends that its Board of Directors authorize a resolution of support for LAVTA to continue to participate in the Regional Means-Based Fare Program (Clipper START) through June 2025; and

WHEREAS, there is no pending or threatened litigation which might in any way adversely affect the ability of LAVTA to deliver the proposed project(s) for which funds are being requested; and

WHEREAS, MTC will compensate transit agencies participating in the program; now, therefore, be it:

RESOLVED, that LAVTA requests that MTC program funds available under its Clipper START Pilot Program, in the amounts requested for which LAVTA is eligible; and

RESOLVED, that staff of LAVTA shall forward a copy of this Resolution, and such other information as may be required, to MTC, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), and such other agencies as may be appropriate.

APPROVED AND PASSED this 10th day of July 2023.

Melissa Hernandez, Chair

ATTEST:

Christy Wegener, Executive Director