

From: Adina Levin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 4:00 PM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Programming and Allocations - Agenda 2H

External Email

Re: Programming and Allocations Committee - MTC's Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program - Agenda 2H

Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you very much for building the Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program. Voices for Public Transportation is a regional coalition of community organizations that has been providing community education and organizing in support of abundant, accessible, affordable and safe public transportation.

The region's community groups and equity-oriented organizations have been working together in an unprecedented fashion to support sustaining and transforming public transportation, supporting funding and transformation initiatives at the regional, state, and to some extent federal level, just as the region has.

We appreciate the crafting of this family of programs in a manner that learns from previous cycles to engage Equity Priority Communities consistently and early in planning.

In particular, we offer comments on Category 3, Community Powerbuilding and Engagement, focusing on "Community leadership investment for engagement and education in transit/transportation, housing, climate solutions."

We appreciate and support staff's proposal to "collaborate with community stakeholders in further shaping Category 3", in particular to craft guidelines that can support the distinctive needs for regional collaboration in the time window of this program.

For this CARE cycle, the region's public transportation system faces historic challenges in the wake of Covid, the aftermath of which creates greater needs to financially sustain service. Bay Area values demand that we sustain and grow transit service and meet housing and climate goals for the region as a whole and for Equity Priority Communities. And coalitions in the region are pursuing historic opportunities for transformation, to provide more abundant, convenient, affordable, accessible transportation, and to pursue funding for these goals at regional, state, and federal levels.

We offer the following recommendations to refine Category 3.

- 1.
- 2.
3. Increase the funding of this category from 5% to 15% to engage and build power throughout the region
4. for regional and state-focused initiatives.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

8. Refine the evaluation and decision process so that it can appropriately evaluate and support projects
9. that are regional in scope, to meet the regional program needs.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. Enable funding coalitions as well as individual community-based organizations to help uplift equity
14. community needs to regional and statewide decision processes.
- 15.

As representatives of organizations in the Voices for Public Transportation Coalition, we thank you for your consideration,

Bob Allen, Urban Habitat
Thea Selby, San Francisco Transit Riders

Ian Griffiths, Seamless Bay Area