

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

February 11, 2026

Agenda Item 3b-26-0218

**MTC Resolution No. 4604, Revised. MTC Community Action Resource and Empowerment
(CARE) - Community-Based Transportation Plan Project Development Technical
Assistance (CBTP TA)**

Subject:

Revisions to the MTC Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) guidelines to establish county-level funding amounts for CBTP TA and update the program guidelines. Staff will also provide an overview of the Participatory Budgeting and Project Delivery component of CARE including anticipated next steps in framework development.

Background:

MTC's Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program, the successor to MTC's equity-rooted legacy Lifeline Transportation Program, was established in November 2023. CARE supports three program categories: (1) transportation-based community capacity power-building and engagement (Pb+E), (2) community-based transportation plan project development technical assistance (CBTP TA), and (3) participatory budgeting and project delivery (PB-PD) supporting Equity Priority Communities and similar designations in the nine-county Bay Area region. The target programming amount for CARE Cycle 1 is \$27 million in total, which includes a mix of federal One Bay Area Grant and MTC exchange, and \$2 million in one-time Regional Early Action Program (REAP 2.0) funds. The Commission previously approved \$5 million in funding for the Pb+E category. This month, staff is proposing programming of \$12 million for the CBTP TA category (Item 2b) and plan to return in the coming months with a proposal for another \$10 million in programming for PB-PD.

This month, staff recommend revising the CARE Program (MTC Resolution No. 4604) to advance CBTP TA as detailed below.

CBTP TA:

The CBTP TA component as proposed would advance high-priority, community-identified mobility solutions from Community-Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs). The primary objective of this category is to transform community-driven project concepts into viable, implementable projects by advancing them towards 100% design ready for construction. Eligible activities under this category include public outreach, alternatives analysis, and conceptual, detailed, and final design.

This component builds directly on the foundation provided by MTC's longstanding CBTP program. Established in 2002, CBTPs are community driven plans that are developed with a focus on engaging residents of Equity Priority Communities (EPCs) and community-based

organizations that serve them, with the goal of identifying needs and recommending mobility improvements. These efforts have surfaced a wide range of priority projects within EPCs, which CARE seeks to now advance through the CBTP TA program by aligning community needs with technical assistance to accelerate project implementation.

CBTP TA Implementation Framework and Guidelines Revisions:

Staff propose to implement the CBTP TA component in 2026 using a streamlined delivery approach focused on advancing community-priority projects. To support this approach, staff recommend the following revisions to MTC Resolution No. 4604, Revised to enable greater flexibility, reduce administrative burden, and facilitate timely project delivery.

- Partner with County Transportation Agencies (CTAs) to administer a county-level project nominations process, enabling identification of locally prioritized community projects.
- Establish CARE CBTP TA guidelines detailing eligible activities, county-level allocations, evaluation criteria, and requirements for demonstrating meaningful community support.
- Establish county funding targets by distributing 30 percent of total funds equally across counties, with the remaining 70 percent assigned based on each county's regional low-income (<200% FPL) population share.
- Provide flexibility for CTAs to adjust CBTP TA funding target by up to +/-30 percent, with corresponding equal and opposite adjustments to future PB-PD funding target amounts.

Participatory Budgeting and Project Delivery (PB-PD) Overview:

The PB-PD component is anticipated to receive approximately \$10 million in federal and non-federal funds, contingent upon future programming by the Commission. The primary objective of this category is to deliver, through construction, smaller-scale neighborhood projects that have undergone a robust community-driven process.

This category builds directly on participatory budgeting pilot projects funded through CARE's predecessor program, Lifeline Cycle 5 in 2018, which constructed community priorities from the Bayview community in San Francisco and the City of Vallejo, such as increased bus service, bus shelters, crosswalks, and wayfinding. The program now seeks to build upon, incorporate lessons learned from the pilots, and expand upon it as part of the CARE program.

Staff plans to implement the PB-PD component in 2026. As envisioned, MTC will partner with CTAs who would nominate a prioritized project list and propose project teams (city, community, CTA letter of support). MTC staff will establish county funding targets, develop program guidelines, help screen projects, and help facilitate participatory budgeting process implementation as needed. Additional program details will be developed and brought forward later in 2026.

Issues:

None.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4604, Revised to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- MTC Resolution 4604, Revised
 - Attachment A, Appendix 3: Community-Based Transportation Plan Project Development Technical Assistance Program Guidelines
- Presentation

Andrew B. Fremier