



**PLANNING & PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE**  
**May 19, 2004**

**SUBJECT:     JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) GRANT**

**ACTION:     APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO FUND A JOB ACCESS AND  
              REVERSE COMMUTE PROJECT**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Approve the recommended funding amount of up to \$1,366,000 in federal funds from the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Program for the proposed Countywide Car Sharing Demonstration Project.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to submit a JARC grant application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the MTA to act as a pass-through agency on behalf of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME) for the proposed project.
- C. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to negotiate and execute a JARC pass-through funding agreement with FAME after the FTA awards a grant.
- D. Amend the FY05 budget to increase the budget by \$1.5 million to cover the first year of expenses of the JARC projects.
- E. Obligate \$95,098 from the JARC program as contingency to the previously approved projects.

**ISSUE**

The MTA has available Congressional allocations totaling \$3,362,172 for the JARC program. In January 2004, the MTA Board of Directors approved eight staff recommended projects totaling \$1,901,074, and staff informed the MTA Board that additional project sponsors for the \$1,461,098 in remaining funds would be sought. Additional project sponsors are needed to obligate the funds before September 30, 2005, when funds are subject to lapse. Staff has reviewed a request from FAME to fund a proposed Countywide Car Sharing Demonstration Project from the JARC Grant Program.

## BACKGROUND

For FY 2002 and FY 2003, Congress allocated a total of \$3,362,172 in federal JARC Program funding to Los Angeles County under the Section 3037 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The JARC Program itself has two major goals: (1) to provide transportation services in urban, suburban and rural areas that would assist welfare recipients and other low-income individuals in accessing employment opportunities; and (2) to increase collaboration among regional transportation providers, human service agencies and related service providers, employers and affected communities.

In August 2003, the MTA requested funding proposals from various cities, agencies, and operators in Los Angeles County that could benefit from the JARC program. The MTA Board approved eight proposals totaling \$1,901,074, and the FTA is currently reviewing the eight proposals. A balance of \$1,461,098 of federal funds remains available for an eligible project or projects.

FAME submitted a proposal for a Countywide Car Sharing Demonstration Project to the MTA following the January Board approval of the eight JARC projects. The Countywide Car Sharing Demonstration Project will provide car sharing opportunities to low income individuals by making vehicles available to program participants on demand. As the MTA did not receive any other eligible proposals for consideration, staff is recommending that only this project be added to the list of projects that the MTA Board previously approved for the JARC Program.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

This action will increase the FY05 budget by \$1.5 million under cost center 0441, project 500002, to be funded with federal Section 3037 funds. Since this is a multiyear program, the Project Manager and Deputy Executive Officer will be accountable for budgeting the cost in the future years.


## OPTIONS

The MTA Board may decide not to approve the funding for the recommended project. This option is not recommended, as it would not allow the MTA to obligate as much of the Congressional allocations as possible, if not all, before the JARC funds lapse. Any unobligated funds will be lost to Los Angeles County.

## NEXT STEPS

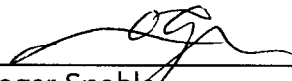
With MTA Board approval, the Countywide Car Sharing Demonstration Project will be added to the JARC grant application that the FTA will consider for grant award. Upon FTA approval of the grant, the MTA will execute a pass-through agreement with FAME and monitor project implementation.

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