



PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
October 19, 2005

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

**ACTION: AUTHORIZE CEO TO EXECUTE FUNDING AGREEMENTS WITH
SERVICE PROVIDERS ADMINISTERING THREE REGIONAL
PROGRAMS**

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his designee to execute Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with service providers administering the Immediate Needs Transportation Program (INTP), the General Relief Token Program (GRTP) and the Support for Homeless Re-Entry Program (SHORE) for up to five (5) years. Such authorization is subject to the following:

- A. Future year funding of these programs will be subject to the availability of funds and approval from the Board of the Directors through the Metro budget process.
- B. Metro staff will implement the recommendations of an INTP evaluation that will be presented to the Board once completed.
- C. Funding will be provided as follows and as approved by the Board of Directors in the FY 05 and FY 06 Metro Budgets:
 1. Immediate Needs Transportation Program
Provider: First African Methodist Episcopal Church
FY 06 Budget amount: \$2,500,000
 2. Immediate Needs Transportation Program
Provider: International Institute of Los Angeles
FY 06 Budget amount: \$2,500,000
 3. General Relief Token Program
Provider: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
FY 05 and FY 06 Budget Amount: \$700,000 annually

4. Support for Homeless Re-Entry
Grantee: Shelter Partnership, Incorporated
FY 05 and FY 06 Budget Amount: \$350,000 annually

ISSUE

The CEO needs authorization from the Board of Directors to execute MOUs with service providers administering the INTP, the GRTP and SHORE, which Metro has funded since the early 1990s. The Board approved funding for these programs most recently through its adoption of the FY 05 Budget on June 7, 2004 and the FY 06 Budget on May 26, 2005. However, it has been determined that the Board has not formally granted the MOU authorization needed for the GRTP and SHORE under the FY 05 Budget and for all three of the specialized transportation programs under the FY 06 Budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The INTP, the GRTP and SHORE are specialized transportation programs that serve people with disabilities, frail elderly, welfare participants, indigents, and other people with immediate transportation needs. These populations continue to rely on these specialized transportation programs. Without these programs, these populations may be significantly impacted. With Board authorization, the CEO will be able to execute MOUs with service providers administering the programs and the providers will be able to receive funds.

OPTIONS

The Board may choose not to authorize the CEO to execute MOUs as recommended. However, without such Board authorization, we will not be able to provide the funding that the Board has approved for the programs in the FY 05 and FY 06 Metro Budgets. We also will not be able to provide funding for the programs in future years, if the Board approves funding in future Metro budgets. Without the authorization as recommended, Board-approved funding cannot be provided and the programs may be disrupted or discontinued. Disruption or cancellation of program services may significantly impact those who have limited transportation options.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of \$6,050,000 for the INTP, the GRTP and SHORE is included in the FY 06 Metro Budget under Project # 410016 Other Subsidies – Other Agencies, Department #4400 Programming and Policy Analysis, cost center 0441 Countywide Planning and Development non-departmental. Future year funding will be subject to availability and Board approval through the Metro budget process. In FY06, all of these programs are funded from Proposition C 40% Discretionary revenues. Future year funding sources will be identified at the time of budget adoption.

BACKGROUND

In the early 1990s, Metro established the INTP, the GRTP and SHORE with funding through the Call for Projects. The following reviews each of the programs.

Immediate Needs Transportation Program

This program was established in May 1992 following urban unrest. The Board selected the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME) to administer and broker the INTP. The Board expanded the program in 1993 to provide service countywide. At that time, the International Institute of Los Angeles (IILA) was selected to broker the program in the northern and eastern half of the county, while FAME continued to broker the southern and western half. Since 1993, Metro has budgeted \$5 million annually to the INTP and allocated \$2.5 million to FAME and IILA each. In total, the two brokers work with approximately 600 agencies to distribute taxi vouchers and bus tokens to persons with immediate transportation needs and limited other transportation resources. Taxi vouchers and bus tokens are used for trips to medical, shelter, case management, job search/job interview, food and other essential destinations.

Board Motion of June 7, 2004 Concerning INTP

In response to the Board motion, we have taken the following actions:

- Reduced administration cost from 20% to 10%;
- Sought federal funding from the Department of Homeland Security to help address Metro security needs; and
- Budgeted funding for the INTP using Proposition C 40% Discretionary revenues.

We will continue to work with FAME and IILA to identify ways to improve the efficiency of the program. In addition, we have begun a process to address the remaining action items that the Board motion requested. We will keep the Board apprised as to the status of this work through February 2006, when we expect the work to be completed.

General Relief Token Program

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) manages this program. The program provides transportation subsidies to employable GRTP recipients. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) also provides 65% of the funding for the GRTP. Metro's annual subsidy of \$700,000 to DPW is approximately 35% of the total funding for the program. DPSS distributes tokens to GRTP recipients, while the DPW administers the funding used to purchase the tokens.

Support for Homeless Re-Entry Program

SHORE began in May 1994 and was developed to aid homeless persons in central Los Angeles, so that they would become self-sufficient through access to such services as

schooling, employment, healthcare, and social services. SHORE recipients receive Metro tokens. Shelter Partnership, Incorporated administers the \$350,000 annual token program with its own operating funds. All Metro subsidies go for purchasing tokens.

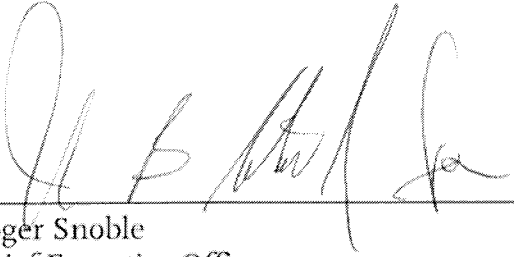
NEXT STEPS

The CEO or his designee will execute MOUs for up to five years with each of the service providers as described in the recommendation. Approval of the recommendation will allow us to provide funding for these specialized transportation programs as budgeted. We will return to the Board to present the results of the INTP evaluation once it is completed, or if there are any significant changes to the programs that affect funding levels or sources.

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