

Date: January 24, 2018
W.I.: 1310
Referred by: PAC

Attachment A
MTC Resolution No. 4309
Page 1 of 19



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 5 Guidelines

January 2018

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

LIFELINE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE 5 GUIDELINES
FY 2017 AND FY 2018

January 2018

Table of Contents

1.	PROGRAM GOAL.....	3
2.	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.....	4
3.	FUNDING APPORTIONMENT AND AVAILABILITY.....	4
4.	ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS/SUBRECIPIENTS.....	5
5.	STA AND FTA SECTION 5307 PROGRAMMING PROCESS.....	6
6.	ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.....	7
7.	LOCAL MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.....	8
8.	COORDINATED PLANNING.....	9
9.	GRANT APPLICATION.....	9
10.	APPLICATION EVALUATION.....	10
11.	COUNTYWIDE PROGRAM OF PROJECTS.....	10
12.	POLICY BOARD ADOPTION.....	10
13.	PROJECT DELIVERY.....	11
14.	PROJECT OVERSIGHT.....	11
15.	PERFORMANCE MEASURES.....	12
16.	FUND ADMINISTRATION.....	12
17.	COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.....	13
18.	TIMELINE.....	14

Appendix 1. Funding Source Information

Appendix 2. Standard Evaluation Criteria

**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
LIFELINE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE 5 GUIDELINES
FY 2017 AND FY 2018**

January 2018

1. **PROGRAM GOAL.** The Lifeline Transportation Program is intended to fund projects that result in improved mobility for low-income residents of the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties.

The Lifeline Program supports community-based transportation projects that:

- Are developed through a collaborative and inclusive planning process that engages a broad range of stakeholders such as public agencies, transit operators, community-based organizations and residents, and outreach to underrepresented communities.
- Improve a range of transportation choices by adding new or expanded services including but not limited to: enhanced fixed route transit services, first-and last-mile shuttles, taxi voucher programs, and other eligible projects.
- Address transportation gaps and/or barriers identified in Community-Based Transportation Plans (CBTP) or other substantive local planning efforts involving focused outreach to low-income populations such as countywide or regional welfare-to-work transportation plans, the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan or other documented assessment of need. Findings emerging from one or more CBTPs or other relevant planning efforts may also be applied to other low-income areas, or otherwise be directed to serve low-income constituencies within the county, as applicable. A map of communities of concern (CoC) is included in the Equity Analysis Report for Plan Bay Area 2040, which is available at http://2040.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/Equity_Report_PBA%202040%20_7-2017.pdf

2. **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.** The Lifeline Program will be administered by county congestion management agencies (CMAs) or other designated county-wide agencies as follows:

County	Lifeline Program Administrator
Alameda	Alameda County Transportation Commission
Contra Costa	Contra Costa Transportation Authority
Marin	Transportation Authority of Marin
Napa	Napa Valley Transportation Authority
San Francisco	San Francisco County Transportation Authority
San Mateo	City/County Association of Governments
Santa Clara	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and Santa Clara County
Solano	Solano Transportation Authority
Sonoma	Sonoma County Transportation Authority

3. **FUNDING APPORTIONMENT AND AVAILABILITY.** Fund sources for the Cycle 5 Lifeline Transportation Program include State Transit Assistance (STA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula¹ funds. Cycle 5 will cover a two-year programming cycle, FY2016-17 to FY2017-18.

- a. **STA and FTA Section 5307.** Funding for STA and FTA Section 5307 will be assigned to counties by each fund source, based on the county’s share of the regional low-income population (see Figure 1).² Lifeline Program Administrators will assign funds to eligible projects in their counties. See Section 5 for details about the STA and FTA Section 5307 programming process and Appendix 1 for detailed eligibility requirements by fund source.

¹ The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) federal transportation authorizing legislation eliminated the FTA Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program (Section 5316) and combined JARC functions and funding with the Urbanized Area Formula (Section 5307) and the Non-urbanized Area Formula (Section 5311) programs. JARC projects were made eligible for 5307 funding, and, consistent with MTC’s Transit Capital Priorities (TCP) Process and Criteria (MTC Resolution Nos. 4242), in the and FY2016-17 and FY2017-18 Section 5307 programs, a portion of the Bay Area’s urbanized area funds have been set aside for the Lifeline program.

² FTA Section 5307 funds are apportioned by urbanized area (UA), so the distribution of 5307 funds will also need to take UA boundaries into consideration.

Figure 1. County and Share of Regional Poverty Population

<i>County</i>	<i>Share of Regional Low Income (<200% Poverty) Population</i>
Alameda	23.1%
Contra Costa	14.7%
Marin	2.7%
Napa	2.1%
San Francisco	12.2%
San Mateo	8.4%
Santa Clara	22.5%
Solano	6.6%
Sonoma	7.7%
Total	100.0%

Source: American Community Survey, 2011-2015, 5-Year Estimate

- b. Participatory Budgeting. Subject to funding available from a proposed 2018 Caltrans Planning Grant, MTC will pilot a voluntary participatory budgeting (PB) process. The participatory budgeting process enables residents in Communities of Concern to develop and vote on project priorities working through their CMA’s Community-Based Transportation Planning process. Selected projects are then funded as part of an available/dedicated budget. MTC will set aside up to \$1 million off the top from the Lifeline Transportation Program for projects identified through this pilot. Projects identified through the PB process will be presented to the Commission at a future date. CMA’s that want to participate in this pilot should contact MTC staff by January 30, 2018.
- c. Local Fund Exchanges. Consistent with MTC Resolution No. 3331, MTC will allow County Lifeline Program Administrators to use local fund exchanges to fund projects that are not otherwise eligible for the state and federal funds in Cycle 5. Lifeline Program Administrators must notify MTC about their intent to exchange funds, and MTC staff will review and approve the exchanges on a case-by-case basis. MTC staff is supportive of these fund exchanges to the extent that the exchange projects meet the spirit of the Lifeline Transportation Program.

4. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS/SUBRECIPIENTS

- a. STA. There are three categories of eligible recipients of STA funds: a) transit operators; b) Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSAs); and, c) Cities and Counties that are eligible to claim Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 4, 4.5 or 8 funds.

Non-profit organizations and Cities/Counties that are not eligible TDA Article 4, 4.5 or 8 claimants are only eligible for STA funds if they partner with an eligible STA recipient

(e.g., a transit operator) that is willing to serve as the recipient of the funds and pass through the funds to the non-profit or City/County, and if they have an eligible project.

- b. FTA Section 5307. Transit operators that are FTA grantees are the only eligible recipients of FTA Section 5307 funds.

Non-profit organizations and public agencies that are not FTA grantees are only eligible for Section 5307 funds if they partner with an FTA grantee (transit operator) that is willing to serve as the direct recipient of the Section 5307 funds and pass through the funds to the sub recipient non-profit or public agency.

Section 5307 recipients/sub recipients will be required to have a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and provide it during the application process.³ A DUNS number may be obtained from D&B by telephone (866-705-5711) or the Internet (<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).

5. STA AND FTA SECTION 5307 PROGRAMMING PROCESS. For STA and FTA Section 5307 funds, Lifeline Program Administrators are responsible for soliciting applications for the Lifeline Transportation Program.

Consistent with MTC's Public Participation Plan and FTA's Title VI Circular (FTA C 4702.1B), MTC encourages Lifeline Program Administrators to conduct a broad, inclusive public involvement process, and use multiple methods of public outreach. Funds in the Cycle 5 program are predominantly restricted to transit operators (see Section 4 for recipient eligibility restrictions). Therefore, MTC also acknowledges that each Lifeline Program Administrator's public outreach strategy will be tailored accordingly.

Methods of public outreach may include, but are not limited to, highlighting the program and application solicitation on the CMA website, and sending targeted postcards and e-mails to all prospective applicants, including those that serve predominantly minority and low-income populations.

Further guidance for public involvement is contained in MTC's Public Participation Plan. Additionally, a list of Caltrans best practices for community engagement can be accessed through the Caltrans Final Sustainable Communities Grant Guide at:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants/1718/1_14SEP17_FinalSustainableCommunitiesGrantGuideFY2017-18.pdf

³ A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is a unique, non-indicative 9-digit identifier issued and maintained by D&B that verifies the existence of a business entity. The DUNS number is a universal identifier required for Federal financial assistance applicants, as well as recipients and their direct sub-recipients.

CMAs are required to document the outreach effort undertaken for the local call for projects and provide MTC with a description of how the public was involved in the process for nominating and/or commenting on projects selected for Lifeline Transportation Program funding.

- a. Competitive Process. STA and FTA Section 5307 projects must be selected through an open, competitive process, with the following exception: In an effort to address the sustainability of fixed-route transit operations, Lifeline Program Administrators may elect to allocate some or all of their STA and/or Section 5307 funds directly to transit operators for Lifeline transit operations within the county. Projects must be identified as Lifeline projects before transit operators can claim funds, and will be subject to Lifeline Transportation Program reporting requirements.
- b. STA Contingency Programming. Due to the uncertainty of forecasting STA revenues, the Lifeline Program Administrators will program 95 percent of their county's estimated STA amount, and develop a contingency plan for the remaining five percent should it be available. Contingency project(s) are to be identified and separately listed should the contingency funds become available. Contingency funds are not to be dispersed throughout all Lifeline projects.

6. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- a. Eligible operating projects. Eligible operating projects, consistent with requirements of funding sources, may include (but are not limited to) new or enhanced fixed route transit services, restoration of Lifeline-related transit services eliminated due to budget shortfalls, shuttles, taxi voucher programs, auto loan programs, etc. See Appendix 1 for additional details about eligibility by funding source.
- b. Eligible capital projects. Eligible capital projects, consistent with requirements of funding sources, may include (but are not limited to) purchase of vehicles; bus stop enhancements; rehabilitation, safety or modernization improvements; or other enhancements to improve transportation access for residents of low-income communities. See Appendix 1 for additional details about eligibility by funding source.
- c. FTA Section 5307 restrictions
 - (1) Job Access and Reverse Commute requirement. For the Lifeline Transportation Program, the use of FTA Section 5307 funds is restricted solely to Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) -type projects. For details regarding eligible FTA Section 5307 JARC-type projects, see the FTA Section 5307 Circular (FTA C 9030.1E), Chapter IV, Section 5 available at https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FINAL_FTA_circular9030.1E.pdf Also see Appendix 1 for detailed eligibility requirements by fund source.

- (2) New and existing services. Consistent with the FTA Section 5307 circular (FTA C 9030.1E), Chapter IV, Section 5.a, eligible job access and reverse commute projects must provide for the development or maintenance of eligible job access and reverse commute services. Recipients may not reclassify existing public transportation services that have not received funding under the former Section 5316 program as job access and reverse commute services in order to qualify for operating assistance. In order to be eligible as a job access and reverse commute project, a proposed project must qualify as either a “development project” or “maintenance project” as follows:
- i. Development Projects. “Development of transportation services” means new projects that meet the statutory definition and were not in service as of the date Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, became effective December 4, 2015. This includes projects that expand the service area or hours of operation for an existing service.
 - ii. Maintenance Projects. “Maintenance of transportation services” means projects that continue and maintain job access and reverse commute projects and services that received funding under the former Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute program.
7. LOCAL MATCHING REQUIREMENTS. The Lifeline Transportation Program requires a minimum local match of 20% of the total project cost. Lifeline Transportation Program funds may cover a maximum of 80% of the total project cost.
- a. Exceptions to 20% requirement. There are two exceptions to the 20% local match requirement:
 - (1) FTA Section 5307 operating projects require a 50% match. However, consistent with MTC’s approach in previous funding cycles, Lifeline Program Administrators may use STA funds to cover the 30% difference for projects that are eligible for *both* 5307 and STA funds.
 - (2) All auto-related projects require a 50% match.
 - b. Sources of local match. Project sponsors may use certain federal, state or local funding sources (Transportation Development Act, operator controlled State Transit Assistance, local sales tax revenue, etc.) to meet the match requirement. In-kind contributions such as the market value of in-kind contributions integral to the project may be counted as a contribution toward local share.

For FTA Section 5307 projects, the local match can be *non*-Department of Transportation (DOT) federal funds. Eligible sources of non-DOT federal funds include: Temporary

Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) and Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services or Community Development Block grants (CDBG) and HOPE VI grants administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Grant funds from private foundations may also be used to meet the match requirement.

Transportation Development Credits (“Toll Credits”) are not an eligible source of local match for the Lifeline Transportation Program.

8. COORDINATED PLANNING. Under FAST Act, projects funded with Section 5307 funds are no longer required by FTA to be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan (“Coordinated Plan”); however, in the Bay Area’s Coordinated Plan, MTC continues to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, *and* people with low incomes, and to provide strategies for meeting those local needs. Therefore, projects funded with Lifeline Transportation Program funds should be consistent with the transportation needs, proposed solutions, and enhanced coordination strategies presented in the Coordinated Plan to the extent practicable considering any other funding source restrictions.

The Bay Area’s Coordinated Plan is being updated in early 2018. The previous version approved in March 2013 is available at:

https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Coord_Plan_Update.pdf , and the draft update to the plan is available at: <https://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/plans-projects/other-plans/coordinated-public-transit-human-services-transportation-plan>

Mobility management was a key coordination strategy recommended in the 2013 plan update and in the draft 2018 plan. The designation of lead mobility managers or Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSAs) at the County or sub regional level is an essential component of that strategy. Consistent with those recommendations, the Lifeline Program Administrators may, at their discretion, choose to award extra points to—or otherwise give priority to—projects sponsored by or coordinated with County or sub regional Mobility Managers or CTSAs.

Transportation needs specific to senior and disabled residents of low-income communities may also be considered when funding Lifeline projects.

9. GRANT APPLICATION. To ensure a streamlined application process for project sponsors, a universal application form will be used, but, with review and approval from MTC, may be modified as appropriate by the Lifeline Program Administrator for inclusion of county-specific grant requirements.

Applicants with multi-county projects must notify the relevant Lifeline Program Administrators and MTC about their intent to submit a multi-county project, and submit copies of their application to all of the relevant counties. If the counties have different application forms, the applicant can submit the same form to all counties, but should contact the Lifeline Program Administrators to determine the appropriate form. If the counties have

different application deadlines, the applicant should adhere to the earliest deadline. The Lifeline Program Administrators will work together to score and rank the multi-county projects, and, if selected, to determine appropriate funding. (Note: Multi-county operators with projects that are located in a single county need only apply to the county where the project is located.)

10. APPLICATION EVALUATION

- a. Evaluation criteria. Standard evaluation criteria will be used to assess and select projects. The six criteria include (1) project need/goals and objectives, (2) community-identified priority, (3) implementation plan and project management capacity, (4) coordination and program outreach, (5) cost-effectiveness and performance indicators, and (6) project budget/sustainability. Lifeline Program Administrators will establish the weight to be assigned for each criterion in the assessment process.

Additional criteria may be added to a county program but should not replace or supplant the regional criteria. MTC staff will review the proposed county program criteria to ensure consistency and to facilitate coordination among county programs.

See Appendix 2 for the detailed standard evaluation criteria.

- b. Evaluation panel. Each county will appoint a local evaluation panel of CMA staff, the local low-income or minority representative from MTC's Policy Advisory Council (if available), and representatives of local stakeholders, such as transit operators, other transportation providers, community-based organizations, social service agencies, and local jurisdictions, to score and select projects. Counties are strongly encouraged to appoint a diverse group of stakeholders for their local evaluation panel. Each county will assign local priorities for project selection by establishing the weight for each criterion and, at the CMA's discretion, adding local criteria to the standard regional criteria.

11. COUNTYWIDE PROGRAM OF PROJECTS. A full program of projects is due to MTC from each Lifeline Program Administrator based on the timeline outlined in Section 18. While FY2017 FTA funds have been appropriated by Congress and can be considered secured, full FY2018 funds have yet to be appropriated. Given state and federal funding uncertainties, sponsors with projects selected for FY2018 Section 5307 funds and FY2018 STA funds should plan to defer the start of those projects until the funding is appropriated and secured. Lifeline Program Administrators, at their discretion, may opt to allot unused prior year funds to high scoring projects so they can be started quickly. MTC staff will work with Lifeline Program Administrators on this sequencing; MTC staff expects that more will be known about the FY2018 FTA Section 5307 funds and the FY2018 STA funds in calendar year 2018.

12. POLICY BOARD ADOPTION

- a. Project sponsor resolution of local support. Prior to MTC's programming of Lifeline Cycle 5 funds (STA and FTA Section 5307) to any project, MTC requires that the project sponsor adopt and submit a resolution of local support. The resolution shall state that approved projects not only exemplify Lifeline Program goals, but that the local project sponsors understand and agree to meeting all project delivery, funding match and eligibility requirements, and obligation and reporting deadlines and requirements. MTC will provide a resolution of local support template. The County Lifeline Program Administrators have the option of collecting the resolutions of local support from project sponsors along with the project applications, or after the project is selected by the County for funding.
- b. Lifeline Program Administrator/CMA Board Resolution and Concurrence
 - (1) STA and FTA Section 5307. Projects recommended for STA and FTA Section 5307 funding must be submitted to and approved by the respective governing board of the Lifeline Program Administrator.

13. PROJECT DELIVERY. All projects funded under the county programs are subject to the following MTC project delivery requirements:

- a. FTA Section 5307. Project sponsors must expend the Lifeline Transportation Program Section 5307 funds within three years of the FTA grant award or execution of agreement with pass-through agency, whichever is applicable. To prevent the Section 5307 funds from lapsing on the federal obligation deadline, MTC reserves the right to reprogram funds if direct recipients fail to submit their FTA grant by the following dates:
 - August 2021 for FY2017 funds
 - August 2022 for FY2018 funds

Project sponsor are encouraged to submit grant applications at least 90 days prior to the close of FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) due to the time need for application review by USDOT and the US Department of Labor prior to any grants being awarded. Any FTA Section 5307 funds not obligated in a grant by the end of five years from the year of appropriation by Congress will lapse and return to FTA for reallocation in future years. (i.e. funds appropriated by Congress in FY2017 will lapse at the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2022.) Direct recipients are responsible for carrying out the terms of their grants.

- b. STA. Project sponsors must expend the Lifeline Transportation Program STA funds within three years of the date that the funds are programmed by MTC or the date that the agreement with pass-through agency is executed, whichever is applicable.

14. PROJECT OVERSIGHT. For Lifeline projects funded by STA and FTA Section 5307, Lifeline Program Administrators are responsible for programmatic and fiscal oversight, and for monitoring project sponsors in meeting the MTC obligation deadlines and project

delivery requirements. In addition, Lifeline Program Administrators will ensure that projects substantially carry out the scope described in the grant applications for the period of performance. All project budget and scope of work changes must be approved by the MTC Commission; however the Lifeline Program Administrators are responsible for approving budget and scope of work changes prior to MTC's authorization. All scope changes must be fully explained and must demonstrate consistency with Lifeline Transportation Program goals.

See Appendix 1 for detailed accountability and reporting requirements by funding source.

15. PERFORMANCE MEASURES. As part of the Call for Projects, applicants will be asked to establish project goals, and to identify basic performance indicators to be collected in order to measure the effectiveness of the Lifeline projects. At a minimum, performance measures for service-related projects would include: documentation of new "units" of service provided with the funding (e.g., number of trips, service hours, workshops held, car loans provided), cost per unit of service, and a qualitative summary of service delivery procedures employed for the project. For capital projects, project sponsors are responsible for establishing milestones and reporting on the status of project delivery. Project sponsors are responsible for satisfying all reporting requirements, as referenced in Appendix 1. Lifeline Program Administrators will forward all reports containing performance measures to MTC for review and overall monitoring of the Lifeline Transportation Program.

16. FUND ADMINISTRATION

- a. FTA Section 5307. Project sponsors are responsible for entering projects into MTC's Fund Management System for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Transit operators that are FTA grantees are the only eligible recipients of Section 5307 funds. FTA grantees will act as direct recipients, and will submit grant applications directly to FTA.

For projects funded with FTA Section 5307 funds that are sponsored by non-FTA grantees (e.g., nonprofits or other local government entities), the FTA grantee who was identified as the partner agency at the time of the application will submit the grant application to FTA directly and, following FTA approval of the grant, will enter into funding agreements with the sub recipient project sponsor.

FTA recipients are responsible for following all applicable federal requirements and for ensuring that their sub recipients comply with all federal requirements. See Section 18 for federal compliance requirements.

- b. STA. For transit operators receiving STA funds, MTC will allocate funds directly through the annual STA claims process. For other STA eligible projects administered by sponsors who are not STA eligible recipients, the project sponsor is responsible for identifying a local transit operator who will act as a pass-through for the STA funds, and

will likely enter into a funding agreement directly with the project sponsor. Project sponsors are responsible for entering their own STA projects into the TIP.

17. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.

- a. Lifeline Program Administrator Responsibilities. For the selection of projects to be funded with FTA Section 5307 funds, in accordance with federal Title VI requirements, Lifeline Program Administrators must distribute the FTA funds without regard to race, color, and national origin, and must assure that minority populations are not being denied the benefits of or excluded from participation in the program. Lifeline Program Administrators shall develop the program of projects or competitive selection process to ensure the equitable distribution of FTA Section 5307 funds to project sponsors that serve predominantly minority populations. Equitable distribution can be achieved by engaging in outreach to diverse stakeholders regarding the availability of funds, and ensuring the competitive process is not itself a barrier to selection of applicants that serve predominantly minority populations.
- b. Project Sponsor Responsibilities. FTA Section 5307 applicants should be prepared to abide by all applicable federal requirements as specified in 49 U.S.C. Section 5307; FTA Circulars C 9030.1E, 4702.1B and 4703.1; the most current FTA Master Agreement; and the most current Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs.

FTA Section 5307 direct recipients will be responsible for adhering to FTA requirements through their agreements and grants with FTA directly and for ensuring that all sub recipients and third-party contractors comply with FTA requirements.

18. TIMELINE. The anticipated timeline for Cycle 5 is as follows:

Program	Action	Anticipated Date*
All	Commission approves Cycle 5 Program Guidelines	January 24, 2018
All	MTC issues guidelines to counties	January 31, 2018
5307 & STA	CMA Board-approved** programs due to MTC from CMAs	May 31, 2018
5307	Project sponsors submit TIP amendments	June 2018***
All	MTC Commission approval of Program of Projects	July 2018
STA	Operators can file claims for Lifeline Cycle 5 STA funds	After July Commission Approval
5307	Deadline for transit operators (FTA grantees) to submit FTA grants for FY17 and FY18 funds	Submit grants once TIP Amendment is federally approved

* Dates subject to change depending on State and Federal deadlines and availability of funds.

** CMA Board approval and concurrence may be pending at the time of deadline.

*** Due date for final 2017 TIP amendment tentatively scheduled for mid-June 2018, subject to change. If projects are not included in final 2017 TIP amendment, the projects can be submitted via FMS for initial 2019 TIP in late 2018.

**Appendix 1
Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 5
Funding Source Information**

	State Transit Assistance (STA)	FTA Section 5307
Purpose of Fund Source	To improve existing public transportation services and encourage regional transportation coordination	To support the continuation and expansion of public transportation services in the United States
Detailed Guidelines	http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/Docs-Pdfs/STIP/TDA_4-17-2013.pdf	https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FINAL FT A_circular9030.1E.pdf
Use of Funds	For public transportation purposes including community transit services	For the Lifeline Transportation Program, the use of FTA Section 5307 funds is restricted solely to Job Access and Reverse Commute-type projects that support the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment
Eligible Recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transit operators ▪ Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSAs) ▪ Cities and Counties if eligible to claim TDA Article 4, 4.5 or 8 funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transit operators that are FTA grantees
Eligible Sub recipients (must partner with an eligible recipient that will serve as a pass-through agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private non-profit organizations ▪ Cities and counties that are not eligible to claim TDA Article 4, 4.5 or 8 funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private non-profit organizations ▪ Public agencies that are not FTA grantees (e.g., cities, counties)

	State Transit Assistance (STA)	FTA Section 5307
Eligible Projects	<p><u>Transit Capital and Operations, including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New, continued or expanded fixed-route service ▪ Purchase of vehicles ▪ Shuttle service if available for use by the general public ▪ Purchase of technology (e.g., GPS, other ITS applications) ▪ Capital projects such as bus stop improvements, including bus benches, shelters, etc. ▪ Various elements of mobility management, if consistent with STA program purpose and allowable use. These may include planning, coordinating, capital or operating activities. 	<p><u>New and existing services.</u> Eligible job access and reverse commute projects must provide for the development or maintenance of eligible job access and reverse commute services. Recipients may not reclassify existing public transportation services that have not received funding under the former Section 5316 program as job access and reverse commute services in order to qualify for operating assistance. In order to be eligible as a job access and reverse commute project, a proposed project must qualify as either a “development project” or a “maintenance project” (see Section 7.c.(2) of these guidelines for details regarding “development” and “maintenance” projects).</p> <p><u>Capital and Operating projects.</u> Projects that comply with the requirements above may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Late-night & weekend service; ▪ Guaranteed ride home service; ▪ Shuttle service; ▪ Expanding fixed route public transit routes, including hours of service or coverage; ▪ Demand-responsive van service; ▪ Ridesharing and carpooling activities; ▪ Transit-related aspects of bicycling; ▪ Administration and expenses for voucher programs; ▪ Local car loan programs; ▪ Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS); ▪ Marketing; and ▪ Mobility management. <p>See FTA C 9030.1E, Chapter IV, Section 5307 for details regarding eligible projects.</p>

	State Transit Assistance (STA)	FTA Section 5307
Lifeline Program Local Match	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% for operating projects (may use STA funds to cover up to 30% if project is eligible for both JARC and STA) ▪ 50% for auto projects ▪ 20% for planning and capital projects
Estimated timing for availability of funds to project sponsor	<p>Transit operators, CTSA's and eligible cities and counties can initiate claims for FY17 and FY18 funds immediately following MTC approval of program of projects.</p> <p>For sub recipients, the eligible recipient acting as fiscal agent will likely initiate a funding agreement following MTC approval of program of projects. Funds will be available on a reimbursement basis after execution of the agreement.</p>	<p>Following MTC approval of the program of projects, project sponsor will submit project in FMS for inclusion in the TIP. Following Federal TIP approval, FTA grantees must submit FTA grants.</p> <p>FTA grantees can begin their projects after the funds are obligated in an FTA grant. For sub recipients, the FTA grantee acting as fiscal agent will likely initiate a funding agreement following FTA grant award. Funds will be available on a reimbursement basis after execution of the agreement.</p>
Accountability & Reporting Requirements	<p>Transit operators and eligible cities and counties must submit annual performance (i.e., ridership) statistics for the project, first to Lifeline Program Administrators for review, and then to MTC along with annual claim.</p> <p>Depending on the arrangement with the pass-through agency, sub recipients will likely submit quarterly performance reports with invoices, first to the pass-through agency for reimbursement, and then to Lifeline Program Administrators for review.</p>	<p>FTA grantees are responsible for following all applicable federal requirements for preparing and maintaining their Section 5307 grants. MTC and/or the Lifeline Program Administrators may request copies of FTA grantees' quarterly Section 5307 grant reports to FTA.</p> <p>Depending on the arrangement with the pass-through agency, sub recipients will likely submit quarterly performance reports with invoices, first to Lifeline Program Administrators for review, and then to the pass-through agency for reimbursement. Sub recipients will also submit Title VI reports annually to the pass-through agency.</p>

Note: Information on this chart is accurate as of January 2018. MTC will strive to make Lifeline Program Administrators aware of any changes to fund source guidelines that may be enacted by the appropriating agencies (i.e. State of California, Federal Transit Administration).

Appendix 2 Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 5 Standard Evaluation Criteria

The following standard evaluation criteria are intended to provide consistent guidance to each county in prioritizing and selecting projects to receive Lifeline Transportation Program funds. Each county, in consultation with other stakeholder representatives on the selection committee, will consider these criteria when selecting projects, and establish the weight to be assigned to each of the criterion. Additional criteria may be added to a county program but should not replace or supplant the regional criteria. MTC staff will review the proposed county program criteria to ensure consistency and to facilitate coordination among county programs.

- a. Project Need/Goals and Objectives (25pts):** Applicants should describe the unmet transportation need or gap that the proposed project seeks to address and the relevant planning effort that documents the need. Describe how project activities will mitigate the transportation need. Capital or operations projects (sponsored by public transit operators or in partnership with non-profits or cities) that support and augment but are not traditional fixed route projects may be given extra points under this criteria. Project application should clearly state the overall program goals and objectives, and demonstrate how the project is consistent with the goals of the Lifeline Transportation Program.

- b. Community-Identified Priority (20pts):** Priority should be given to projects that directly address transportation gaps and/or barriers identified through a Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) or other substantive local planning effort involving focused inclusive engagement to low-income populations. Applicants should identify the CBTP or other substantive local planning effort, as well as the priority given to the project in the plan.
Other projects may also be considered, such as those that address transportation needs identified in countywide or regional welfare-to-work transportation plans, the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, or other documented assessment of needs within designated communities of concern. Findings emerging from one or more CBTPs or other relevant planning efforts may also be applied to other low-income areas, or otherwise be directed to serve low-income constituencies within the county, as applicable. A map of communities of concern (CoC) is included in the Equity Analysis Report for Plan Bay Area 2040, is available at: http://2040.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/Equity_Report_PBA%202040%20_7-2017.pdf

- c. Implementation Plan and Project Management Capacity (20pts):** For projects seeking funds to support program operations, applicants must provide a well-defined service operations plan, and describe implementation steps and timelines for carrying out the plan.

For projects seeking funds for capital purposes, applicants must provide an implementation plan, milestones and timelines for completing the project.

Priority should be given to projects that are ready to be implemented in the timeframe that the funding is available.

Project sponsors should describe and provide evidence of their organization's ability to provide and manage the proposed project, including experience providing services for low-income persons, and experience as a recipient of state or federal transportation funds. For continuation projects that have previously received Lifeline funding, project sponsor should describe project progress and outcomes.

- d. Coordination and Program Outreach (20pts):** Proposed projects will be evaluated based on their ability to coordinate with other community transportation and/or social service resources. Applicants should clearly identify project stakeholders, and how they will keep stakeholders involved and informed throughout the project. Applicants should also describe how the project will be marketed and promoted to the public.
- e. Cost-Effectiveness and Performance Indicators (20pts):** The project will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate that the project is the most appropriate way in which to address the identified transportation need, and is a cost-effective approach. Applicants must also identify clear, measurable outcome-based performance measures to track the effectiveness of the service in meeting the identified goals. A plan should be provided for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the service, as well as steps to be taken if original goals are not achieved.
- f. Project Budget/Sustainability (20pts):** Applicants must submit a clearly defined project budget, indicating anticipated project expenditures and revenues, including documentation of matching funds. Proposals should address long-term efforts and identify potential funding sources for sustaining the project beyond the grant period.