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December 20, 2011

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Comments on Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments Proposed One Bay Area Grant Program

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the President to send the attached letter.

SUMMARY: Approximately every six years, the U.S. Congress enacts a surface transportation act. Funding is provided to MTC for allocation to local agencies, which they allocate in multi-year cycles. MTC released a draft proposal on July 8, 2011 for comment, intending to better integrate the region's federal transportation program with land use and housing policies by providing incentives for the production of housing with supportive transportation investments. The One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) proposal provides a block grant to the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) and delegates project selections for local agencies to TAM.

The last cycle provided funding to TAM, as one of the nine bay area counties by formula in three programs:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Formula</u>
Local Streets and Roads	25% population, 25% arterial and collector lane mileage, 25% arterial and collector shortfall, 25% preventative maintenance performance
Regional Bicycle Program	25% cost of bikeway network, 25% miles of bikeways, 25% population share
Transportation for Livable Communities	100% population

The OBAG proposal combines all these programs into one block grant and proposes the following formula:

OBAG	50% population, 25% regional housing needs allocation, 25% actual housing production
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This new focus on housing will result in a larger share of regional funding being allocated to the more urban counties.

The OBAG proposal also focuses 70% of the block grant funding to be allocated within Priority Development Areas (PDAs), for which there are four listed in Marin: two in San Rafael: Civic Center/North San Rafael Town Center, and Downtown; and two in the unincorporated area: Urbanized 101 Corridor, and San Quentin. MTC has tabulated that the total federal-aid eligible roadways in Marin's cities, towns and the county is 327 miles, while those in PDAs total 17 miles, or 5%. This proposal would limit 70% of the funds to be spent on 5% of the system.

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The OBAG proposal provides Performance and Accountability requirements to be eligible to receive funding, which include having two out of four recommended policies in place, and a HCD-approved housing element. The Community Development Department indicates that the County currently has one of the four recommended policies in place, with the others requiring additional resources to implement. They also indicate that an update to the housing element is underway. Marin County would not be eligible for funding according to the proposal.

The attached letter proposes changes to the OBAG proposal that will bring the proposal more in line with the County's established needs.

FISCAL IMPACT: A reduction in historical funding for maintenance of county roads will result in accelerated deterioration of the roadway system.

REVIEWED BY:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Respectfully submitted,



Craig Tackabery
Assistant Director

Attachments: One Bay Area Grant Program, draft July 8, 2011
Letter to MTC and ABAG

