

**6. Recommendation on the Use of TRANSPAC's Measure J Additional Bus Service Enhancements funding (line item 19) for FY 2010 -11**

**Summary of Issues:** In 2009, as detailed below, TRANSPAC approved the use of Measure J Central County's (line item 19a) "Additional Bus Service Enhancements" for County Connection in support of routes #16 and #316 for the fourth quarter of FY 2008/09 and FY 2009/10. TRANSPAC established that all future funding from this line item remains subject to an annual allocation recommendation by TRANSPAC. The 2009 allocation decision was restricted to line item 19a in FY2008-09 fourth quarter and FY2009-10. Currently \$733,182 is available for allocation in this line item.

**Recommendation:** The TRANSPAC TAC reviewed the annual allocation at its May 27, 2010 meeting and recommended approval of the allocation of Measure J line 19a funds to County Connection for FY 2010-11. County Connection proposes to continue to use the line 19a funds for routes #16 and #316 and requests TRANSPAC's approval. CCTA staff advises that routes #16 and #316 still qualify as new since both were part of a restructuring in late 2008/09.

The funds are to be used as follows:

**Financial Implications:**

	Total Cost	Measure J Line 19a Contribution	Measure J % of Route Cost
Route #316	\$171,756	\$109,977	64%
Route #16	\$887,377	\$623,205	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,059,133</b>	<b>\$733,182</b>	<b>69%*</b>

\*Measure J dollars as an aggregate percent of total cost is 69%; Average route contribution is 67%.

**Background:** In May 2008, TRANSPAC sent a letter to CCTA to clarify its position that Measure J funding for "Additional Bus Transit Enhancements" (line item 19) is intended to augment bus services through annual payments over the 25 year life of Measure J, with the funds to be used by County Connection at its discretion to best address Central County's bus transit needs. County Connection must report annually to TRANSPAC on how the funds were used, and must consider using annual disbursements to establish a fund reserve to ease expected Measure J revenue variances over its 25-year span.

In February 2009, the CCTA approved a policy that, with respective RTPC approval, would allow eligible bus and paratransit operators to use funds from the Measure J Additional Bus Transit, line item 19 and the Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities, line item 20, funding categories for existing services as well as enhanced and supplemental services. TRANSPAC and WCCTAC are the two RTPCs with allocation recommendation authority over respective Measure J line items 19 and 20.

The CCTA's action was taken in response to the serious funding cuts experienced by bus and paratransit service providers during this economically challenging time and the need for flexibility driven by the serious funding cutbacks experienced by transit and paratransit operators. CCTA also noted that the use of these funds to start new service while cutting existing service may be confusing to the public.

At its March 12, 2009 meeting, TRANSPAC approved a request to CCTA for a Measure J amendment to add funding existing service to the approved uses for its Measure J line items 19a and 20a and to allocate line item 19 funds to County Connection for new routes #16 and #316 for the fourth quarter of FY 2008/09 and FY 2009/10. TRANSPAC also established that all future funding from these line items remains subject to an annual allocation recommendation by TRANSPAC to CCTA. CCTA acted affirmatively on TRANSPAC's request. No funds were approved from line 20, Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities.

During the discussion, the following comments were noted for the record and future consideration of this allocation: TRANSPAC viewed these actions as short-term measures that recognized that decreased funding from standard sources had necessitated these actions; that an annual review/approval process is required to ensure that a precedent is not created which negates the Measure J intention of funding innovative local services; that restoration of this category for additional service is expected in the future and; that an annual approval is at TRANSPAC's discretion.

Route #16 provides a direct connection between the Monument corridor and the County Hospital in Martinez. In the past, riders were forced to transfer at the Amtrak station. Weekend route #316, provides service linking Martinez to the Pleasant Hill BART station via Sun Valley Mall, DVC and downtown Pleasant Hill creating a new and improved connection between downtown Pleasant Hill and the Pleasant Hill BART station.