

Traffic Congestion Relief Program
10, Regional Express Bus Program in the Bay Area
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

January 23rd, 2002

STATUS REPORT

At the August 23rd California Transportation Commission meeting, the CTC approved an application from MTC for \$40 Mil in TCRP funding for the Regional Express Bus Program, to acquire low-emission buses for operating on the HOV Lane system in the nine-county Bay Area. Following is a brief summary of activity in the program:

- MTC and the Department have recently finalized and approved the necessary Master Agreement allowing the funding to flow between the Department and MTC for the bus purchase. MTC is finalizing contracts with the 10 transit operators participating in the program. Ordering of the buses will begin in February. The allocation and the advance approved by the CTC for the Suburban-type buses will allow the Suburban orders to go forward (45 of the 102 total number of buses). An advance of funds for the Over-The Road (OTR) type buses will be necessary for that bus order to ensue. MTC will be coming to the Commission in February for that advance (57 of the 102 total buses).

- Motor Coach Industries (MCI) as well as their engine supplier Detroit Diesel have completed development and testing of a prototype engine that meets the post-October 2002 Environmental Protection Agency/ California Air resources Board requirements for emission levels. Results look promising and Detroit Diesel is beginning the process with EPA to certify the engines meeting their requirements. That certification is planned for completion in July 2002. MCI is the likely vender for the OTR type buses. The Suburban buses will meet all current CARB requirements.

- The development of the marketing campaign for the Regional Express Bus program will begin soon. MTC's Regional Transportation Marketing Committee will be developing the campaign in the coming months. We hope to kick off elements of the campaign when buses are made available in late 2002.

- Further development of the HOV Lane system in the Bay Area is underway through MTC's recently adopted 2001 Regional Transportation Plan. An additional 144 miles of HOV lane, on top of the 368 miles already approved or built, is slated for construction over the next 25 years.

Additional information regarding the Regional Express Bus program in the Bay Area will be presented at the meeting.