

## A BETTER WAY TO SPEND \$70 MILLION

At its Jan. 27, 2010 meeting, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) could vote to pull back \$70 million from the Oakland Airport Connector and reallocate it to help area transit agencies avert service cuts, fare hikes and layoffs that will affect hundreds of thousands of people. It could give:

- \$17 million to BART, which faces a \$25 million budget shortfall and will be voting on January 28 on whether or not to cut 74 positions and institute another round of fare increases.
- \$17.5 million to MUNI, which currently faces a \$16.9 million operating deficit and will be voting on March 2 on a proposal to cut 230 jobs and implement service cuts.
- \$6.7 million to AC Transit, which plans to cut its service by 8.4% in March and is looking at a possible further 7% cut later this year.
- \$12.2 million to VTA, which has depleted their financial reserves and faces a \$50 million operating deficit next fiscal year despite recently cutting service by 8 percent and raising fares.
- \$17 million to be split among Caltrain (\$2.7 million), Golden Gate Transit (\$2.4 million), SamTrans (\$2 million), Vallejo (\$2 million) and other Bay Area transit systems.

This has been MTC's "Plan B" since February 2009 in case the OAC did not get funded. The Federal Transit Administration allows stimulus funds to be used for preventive maintenance, which can go towards transit operations, and has given MTC the green light for this distribution.

source: TransForm, [www.TransFormCA.org](http://www.TransFormCA.org)

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