



Board Report

File #: 2017-0187, File Type: Federal Legislation / State Legislation (Position)

Agenda Number: 29.

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 23, 2017**

SUBJECT: STATE LEGISLATION

ACTION: ADOPT STAFF RECOMMENDED POSITION

RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT staff recommended position:

AB 17 (Holden) - Transit Pass Program: Free or Reduced-Fare Transit Passes SUPPORT

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - AB 17 (Holden) Legislative Analysis

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Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

BILL: ASSEMBLY BILL 17

**AUTHOR: ASSEMBLYMEMBER CHRIS HOLDEN
(D-PASADENA)**

**SUBJECT: TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM: FREE OR REDUCED-FARE
TRANSIT PASSES**

STATUS: ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ACTION: SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a SUPPORT position on AB 17 (Holden).

ISSUE

Assemblymember Chris Holden has introduced Assembly Bill 17, a bill that would allocate funding to the creation and administration of a new Transit Pass Program.

Assembly Bill 17 would:

- Create a new Transit Pass Program to be state-funded and administered by Caltrans;
- Require the state Controller to allocate moneys for the program;
- Set a minimum allocation of \$20,000 for each eligible transit provider;
- Provide for the distribution and allocation of remaining moneys by the STA formula to eligible transit providers;
- Require Caltrans to develop guidelines to administer the program;
- Require Caltrans to develop performance measures and reporting requirements to evaluate the effectiveness of the program; and
- Specify that funds can be used to support free or reduced-fare transit passes for students at public schools, community colleges, California State Universities and the University of California.

DISCUSSION

Assembly Bill 17 (Holden) provides an opportunity to expand Metro's universal college student transit pass program with the support of State funding. This program and associated funding could help to provide additional reduced fare transit passes to students, encourage the use of public transit and increase mobility in the region.

The bill creates a program that could benefit the 1.4 million college students in Los Angeles County. The inclusion of the STA formula for allocating any remaining moneys to eligible transit providers will ensure that Los Angeles County receives an appropriate share and ensure that the diversity of the student population is served.

Staff is recommending that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT IF AMENDED position on the measure AB 17 (Holden). This position is identical to the Board approved position on a similar measure, AB 2222 (Holden) which was introduced during the 2015-2016 legislative session.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

Staff has determined that there is no direct impact to safety as a result of this proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff has determined that there is not an immediate fiscal impact to the agency as the result of the provisions outlined in this bill. As introduced, AB 17 (Holden) would authorize Metro, as an eligible transit provider, to be awarded at least \$20,000 from the program, with any remaining funding distributed through the STA formula. The final proposal will be evaluated for specific impacts to the agency.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board of Directors could consider adopting an OPPOSE position on this legislation; however, this would be inconsistent with our agency's current efforts at increasing mobility throughout the region and the development of a universal college student transit pass program (U-Pass).

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to adopt a SUPPORT position on AB 17, staff will communicate the Board's position to the author and work to ensure passage of the measure. Staff will continue to keep the Board informed as this issue is addressed throughout the legislative session.