



Agenda Item No. 2

To Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of February 8, 2007

From: Ron Downing, Principal Planner
Alan R. Zahradnik, Director of Planning
Celia G. Kupersmith, General Manager

Subject: **AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY
OF MARIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO OPERATE THE
THIRD YEAR OF THE MUIR WOODS SHUTTLE BUS
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Recommendation

The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize execution of an agreement with the County of Marin Department of Public Works to operate the third year of the Muir Woods Shuttle Bus Demonstration Project, between Saturday, May 5, 2007, through Sunday, September 30, 2007, with the understanding that the service will cost approximately \$249,475, to be paid for by the County of Marin.. This project would be undertaken in response to their formal request to provide these services.

This recommendation will be presented to the Board of Directors at its February 9, 2007, meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

The District was asked by the County of Marin (County) to submit a proposal to operate the third and final year of a demonstration shuttle service to the Muir Woods recreation area in southern Marin County, following two successful demonstrations in the summer seasons of 2005 and 2006.

This service was provided last summer between Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 27, 2006) and Labor Day (Monday, September 4, 2006) under an agreement between the District and the County and represented approximately 969 hours of weekend and holiday service plus other services related to marketing and public information and the lease of two additional buses. The base contract amount for last year's service covering all these items was budgeted at \$133,217, and this was approved by the Board on March 10, 2006.

For the summer of 2007, County staff has requested that several modifications be made to the demonstration shuttle bus service: (1) provide more frequent service (every 20 minutes) on peak summer season weekends and holidays between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend to mitigate the need to provide backup service, (2) establish 30-minute weekend service during the “shoulder season” from May 5 to May 20 and from September 8 to September 30, 2007, and (3) provide a direct connection between the Sausalito Ferry and Muir Woods on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend. As was done during the past two summers, it will be necessary to lease four smaller buses (35 feet long) that can navigate the narrow roadways along this route.

Staff’s final estimated project costs for the third and final year of the demonstration project are estimated to be \$249,475. This includes operating costs, vehicle lease costs, and expanded marketing/promotional expenses. Operating costs were estimated using the appropriate hourly rates from the Marin County Transit District contract that went into effect on May 1, 2006. The portion of the service that will operate during FY 06/07 will cost \$103.86 per hour, and the rate for the portion operating during FY 07/08 will be \$109.05 per hour. These rates are for weekend and holiday expansion service as noted in Attachment C of the Marin Local Agreement. Fares will be collected in the same manner as last year: A \$2.00 adult fare will be collected in the westbound direction only, with a \$1.00 fare for seniors, youths and persons with disabilities. Passenger fare revenues collected on the shuttle bus would be credited back to the County to partially offset costs. The County will fully reimburse the District for undertaking the project.

To have the service operational by May 5, final policy-level approvals for the service must occur prior to March 15, 2007. On February 27, the County will take up this issue at their Board meeting. This schedule will allow for sufficient time for leasing equipment, training drivers, preparing operating schedules and developing marketing and public information materials.

Under the original agreement with the County, this will be the third and final contract for the District to provide service under this demonstration project. The continuance of service in future years for the Muir Woods Shuttle Bus will be determined by the County’s ability to identify funding sources to sustain an ongoing Muir Woods shuttle.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the District because all costs will be paid by the County of Marin.