



Agenda Item No. 2

To Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of February 7, 2008

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 MUIR WOODS SHUTTLE BUS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR THE SUMMER OF 2008**

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 a fourth year of the Muir Woods Shuttle Bus Demonstration Project, from Saturday, May 3, 2008, through Sunday, September 28, 2008, with the understanding that the service will cost approximately \$278,369, to be paid for by the County of Marin. This project would be undertaken in response to their formal request to provide these services, and represents a one-year extension of the three-year demonstration project that operated during the summer seasons between 2005 and 2007.

Summary

The District was asked by the County of Marin (County) to submit a proposal to operate an additional season of service beyond the final year of a demonstration shuttle service to the Muir Woods recreation area in southern Marin County, following three successful summer demonstration seasons in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

For the summer of 2008, County staff has requested a program similar to the one operated in 2007, except that three modifications are to be made. First, to improve schedule reliability, an additional bus will be added to the rotation between Marin City and Muir Woods. This will allow more running time per trip. Second, additional capacity and schedule reliability will be provided on the Sausalito Ferry connection through the use of a larger bus and the introduction of a second bus during early afternoon times. Third, the adult round-trip fare will be increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00, with a \$1.00 round-trip fare for seniors, youths and persons with disabilities, collected in the westbound direction only. As was done during the past summers, it will be necessary to lease five smaller buses (35 feet long) that can navigate the narrow roadways along this route.

Weekend “shoulder season” service will operate between Marin City and Muir Woods at 30-minute headways between Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 18, 2008, and also between Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, September 28, 2008. Weekend and holiday peak season service (Marin City-Muir Woods service at 20-minute headways plus dedicated Sausalito-Muir Woods trips) will be operated between Saturday, May 24, and Monday, September 1 (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day).

Total project costs for the fourth year of the demonstration project are estimated to be \$278,369. This includes operating costs, vehicle lease costs, and marketing/promotional expenses. Operating costs were estimated using the appropriate hourly rates from the Marin County Transit District contract that went into effect on January 1, 2008. The portion of the service that will operate during FY 07/08 will be \$93.94 per hour, and the rate for the portion operating during FY 08/09 will be \$98.64 per hour. Passenger fare revenues collected on this service will 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 3, final policy-level approvals for the service must occur prior to March 15, 2008. On March 4, the County will take up this issue at their Board meeting. This schedule will allow sufficient time to lease equipment, train drivers, prepare operating schedules and develop marketing and public information materials.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the District because all costs, estimated to be \$278,369, will be paid by the County of Marin.