

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Participation in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Clipper START! Pilot Program

FROM: Michael Tree, Executive Director

DATE: July 6, 2020

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**Action Requested**

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to notify the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) of LAVTA's desire to participate in MTC's Clipper START! pilot program.

**Background**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has established an 18-month pilot program to offer discounted transit fares to low income individuals. Known as Clipper START!, the program will allow adults who live in the Bay Area and whose annual earnings are up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to qualify. The pilot originally included only BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit, Golden Gate Ferry, and Muni.

**Discussion**

MTC has now invited the transit operators in the East Bay to participate in Clipper START!. Because of the way the Clipper program is configured, all East Bay operators, including LAVTA, County Connection, WestCAT and Tri Delta Transit must have the same fare policy rules, meaning we would all have to participate or not participate. I discussed the program with the other agencies and we have decided as a group to seek to be included in the pilot. The 18-month pilot period starts on July 15, even though none of us are collecting fares at the present time. Clipper will be responsible for all program means testing and for issuing cards to eligible individuals. The discount will be embedded into the card, similar to the Senior and Youth Clipper Cards.

**Budget**

Riders using the Clipper START! card will receive a 20 percent discount on fares. MTC is considering the use of Cares Act funding to reimburse LAVTA for half of that discount. The remainder of the discount will be recovered using our Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds. We view the program as an opportunity to assist Tri-Valley residents who may be economically challenged in the months ahead.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to notify the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) of LAVTA's desire to participate in MTC's Clipper START! pilot program.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 24-2020

*Submitted:* \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-2020**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LIVERMORE  
AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING  
PARTICIPATION IN THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION'S CLIPPER START! PILOT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has established a pilot program called Clipper START!, which offers discounted fares to low income transit riders; and

**WHEREAS** the MTC has solicited Bay Area transit agencies to participate in the pilot and will subsidize up to a 10 percent discount on fares under this program; and

**WHEREAS** the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority has Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds that can be used to the remaining amount of the proposed 20 percent discount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors that the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority's Executive Director is authorized to notify MTC of our desire to participate in the Clipper START! pilot program.

**APPROVED AND PASSED** this 6th day of July 2020.

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Bob Woerner, Chair

**ATTEST:**

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Michael Tree, Executive Director