



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 13, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Claudette Ford, Acting Director, Public Works

Subject: Contract: EcoPass Program

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement and any related amendments with the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) for the continuation of an annual transit pass (EcoPass) program for City of Berkeley employees in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the period beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FY 2006 Adopted Budget includes funding in the fringe benefits account (budget code 930-9701-410-2090) for the EcoPass 2006 program (CMS No. CM8D1). The cost of this program for 2006 will not exceed \$100,000.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The current EcoPass contract with AC Transit expires on December 31, 2005. Staff is recommending that Council authorize continuation of the EcoPass contract to continue the program through 2006.

The Finance Committee of the AC Transit Board of Directors approved the continuation of the EcoPass Program with the City of Berkeley on October 19, 2005, and the Board of Directors approved it on November 9, 2005.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley and AC Transit formed a partnership to establish an employee transit pass program (EcoPass) in January 2002. This program provides all eligible City of Berkeley employees with unlimited rides on all AC Transit buses. City Council approved extension of the EcoPass program for 2003, and for 2004 and 2005.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The EcoPass has proved to be an effective and popular tool for encouraging City employees' use of AC Transit for commuting and other trip purposes. The City has distributed approximately 1,300 passes to all eligible employees.

The City has carefully evaluated the effectiveness of the EcoPass program through annual employee surveys and through analysis of the usage data provided by AC Transit. The most recent analysis is derived from the May 2005 City employee survey results and 2005 monthly bus farebox data. These data show that:

- Employees' use of the EcoPass and AC Transit services has increased since the program's inception. In 2002, an average of 189 employees used their EcoPass per month, and employees took an annual total of 37,794 trips. In 2004, an average of 240 employees used their EcoPass per month, and employees took an annual total of 48,768 trips.
- If the EcoPass were not available, 59% of respondents to the 2005 Employee Transportation Survey reported that they would reduce their use of AC Transit services, including 25% who would stop using AC Transit services entirely.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could decline to extend the contract, thus ending the EcoPass Program. However, staff does not recommend this option based on the program's cost-effectiveness, its consistency with the City of Berkeley General Plan, and its success in reducing single-occupant vehicle commuting.

CONTACT PERSON

Matt Nichols, Principal Transportation Planner, Public Works, 981-7068
Peter Hillier, Assistant Director, Public Works, 981-7010

Attachment:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT AUTHORIZING CONTINUATION OF THE ECOPASS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the continuation of the EcoPass Program will assist the City in its Transportation Demand Management Program; and

WHEREAS, the concentration of bus service in Berkeley and the size of the City's employee base support an employee pass program with the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit); and

WHEREAS, the City agrees to purchase a minimum of 1,400 passes, but no more than 1,600 for the calendar year ending December 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the AC Transit Board of Directors approved the terms of the agreement on November 9, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2006 Adopted Budget includes funding in the fringe benefits account (budget code 930-9701-410-2090, CMS No. CM8D1) for the EcoPass 2006 program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute an agreement and any amendments with the Alameda-Contra Costa County Transit District for the continuation of an annual transit pass (EcoPass) program for City of Berkeley employees in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for the period beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.