

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE 2002-) RESOLUTION NO. 03- 3353
2005 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION)
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD JOB) Introduced by Rod Park; JPACT Chair
ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE FUNDS
FOR THE WAYS TO WORK PROGRAM AS
AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS IN THE FISCAL
YEAR 2003 APPROPRIATIONS REPORT

WHEREAS, through the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program appropriations report, Congress has authorized \$250,000 for the Oregon Ways to Work Loan Program to provide low-interest loans to help low-income wage earners overcome transportation barriers to commute to work, and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Family Service, a non-profit community organization, is an eligible recipient of Federal Transportation Administration Job Access and Reverse Commute Program funds and will provide the required 50% local match for a program total of \$500,000, and

WHEREAS, funding specifically for the Ways to Work Loan Program within Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties as part of the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program was not anticipated during the creation and adoption of the 2002-2005 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, and

WHEREAS, the 2002-2005 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program must be amended to include these program funds before the Federal Transit Administration will reimburse Metropolitan Family Service for administration of this program in the Metro region, and

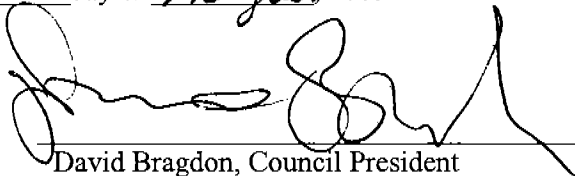
WHEREAS, this program may improve air quality but will be viewed as air quality neutral for Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program purposes and is, therefore, excluded from Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and

WHEREAS, the effects of this amendment are consistent with *“Executive Order 12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations”*, and

WHEREAS, the amendment is consistent with the Metro Regional Transportation Plan as a part of policy 5.2 Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Policy to serve the transportation needs of the economically disadvantaged by connecting low-income populations with employment areas and related social services; now therefore


BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council amends the 2002-2005 Transportation Improvement Program (Metro Resolution No. 02-3178, adopted April 4, 2002) to add funding in Fiscal Year 2003 to the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program in the amount of \$250,000 of Jobs Access Reverse Commute funding and \$250,000 of local match from private sources.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 14th day of August 2003



David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-3353, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE 2002-2005 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE FUNDS FOR THE WAYS TO WORK PROGRAM AS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2003 APPROPRIATIONS REPORT.

Date: July 25, 2003

Prepared by: Ted Leybold

BACKGROUND

Every two years, the Metro Council adopts a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), authorizing federal transportation funds to be spent on a specific list of projects and programs in the region. All federal transportation funds to be spent in the region must be included in the MTIP.

In the 2003 Federal Appropriations report, Congress authorized \$250,000 of Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program funds for the Ways to Work program in Oregon. The Ways to Work program is administered by a non-profit organization and provides low-interest loans to low-income working families to help overcome transportation barriers to accessing their jobs. Typical loans are for car repairs and purchases, child care access and mortgage and housing expenses. Borrowers repay the loans within two years and the proceeds are then made available to other applicants.

While this program has enjoyed success in other metropolitan areas, the specific authorization to the Metro region is new and was not anticipated during the creation of the 2002-2005 MTIP adoption process. To be eligible to receive these funds, Metropolitan Family Service, the local non-profit administering agency, is requesting an amendment to the MTIP to specifically include this appropriated funding. Metropolitan Family Service staff will be requested to report back on the performance of the Ways to Work loan program prior to the adoption of the 2006-2009 MTIP.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition** None known at this time.
2. **Legal Antecedents** Metro Resolution No. 02-3178; Adopting the FY 2002-2005 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP); adopted April 4, 2002. Congressional Report 108-10; Making Further Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2003, and for Other Purposes.
3. **Anticipated Effects** Would allow expenditure of available funds for low-interest loans to low-income working families to overcome transportation barriers to access work and social services.
4. **Budget Impacts** No budget impacts.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 03-3353.