SUBJECT: Receive report on status of Regional Measure Two (RM2) funded Ardenwood Park and Ride Lot

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

☐ Information Only  ☑ Briefing Item  ☐ Recommended Motion

Fiscal Impact:

None at this time. Capital Improvements funded from RM2.

Background/Discussion:

AC Transit’s Transbay Comprehensive Service Plan identifies service from the Fremont-Newark area into downtown San Francisco on Line SB; in addition, the District recently assumed operations of the DB-Dumbarton Bridge bus service to Palo Alto, and implemented the U-Stanford route.

A common point for all of these routes is the Ardenwood Park and Ride facility, located at Ardenwood and Highway 84, adjacent to Ardenwood Historic Farm.

BOARD ACTION:

Approved as Recommended [ ]  Other [ ]
Approved with Modification(s) [ ]

[To be filled in by District Secretary after Board/Committee Meeting]
Caltrans operates the current facility, which has 100 parking spaces. The lot was opened more than 20 years ago, and has been at capacity for almost that entire time. Staff believes that an expanded park and ride facility is necessary to encourage enough patronage to ensure a successful and well-used transit service, both across the Dumbarton Bridge and across the Bay Bridge.

Several months ago, Caltrans was informed that the owner of the adjacent parcel is interested in selling his property (it now serves as a parking lot for his businesses, which include a go-cart track, a miniature golf course, and baseball batting cages). After working with Caltrans, the District and the Alameda County CMA, an action plan has been developed to acquire the adjacent property and convert it to park and ride use.

The project is anticipated to be funded by RM2, which provides the following funding for bus projects:

- **Regional Express Bus Service for San Mateo, Dumbarton, and Bay Bridge Corridors.** Expand park and ride lots, improve HOV access, construct ramp improvements, and purchase rolling stock. Twenty-two million dollars ($22,000,000). The project sponsors are AC Transit and Alameda County Congestion Management Agency.

- **Regional Express Bus South Pool serving the Bay Bridge, San Mateo Bridge, and Dumbarton Bridge Corridors.** Six million five hundred thousand dollars ($6,500,000).

RM2 mandates that projects funded under the statute “have been determined to reduce congestion or to make improvements to travel in the toll bridge corridors.” Therefore, any work performed or services rendered must meet this requirement.

Combining the Caltrans parcel with the property of the willing seller would approximately double the size of the existing lot and could allow for further transit service expansion in the transbay corridors. Accordingly, the CMA and the District are cooperatively working on the following work scope:

- Engaging Alameda County to initiate the acquisition process
- Contacting the property owner to verify need for the property
- Allocating RM2 funds for property purchase
- Initiating CEQA clearance (most likely categorical exemption).
The current acquisition budget is about $1 million, but is subject to appraisal and negotiation. The CMA is handling the CEQA process and is contacting the City of Fremont for concurrence on the project.

The most optimistic schedule would have the property purchased by the end of 2005 and the improvements in place by mid-2006.

Prior Relevant Board Actions/Policies:
GM Memo 98-048c/048d: Approval of Final Transbay CSP
GM Memo 03-262a: Park and Ride Transit Centers

Attachments: None

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