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# Clipper: The Next Generation

## **SPUR**

May 11, 2016

### Clipper in the Region and San Francisco

Diana Hammons San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency



### Clipper = Seamless Travel



#### 9 counties/20 transit systems

- Available to more than 95% of transit riders
- 1.7 million active card accounts
- 20-23 million transactions per month
- Processing \$40 to \$45 million in transit revenue per month
- More than 300 retailers

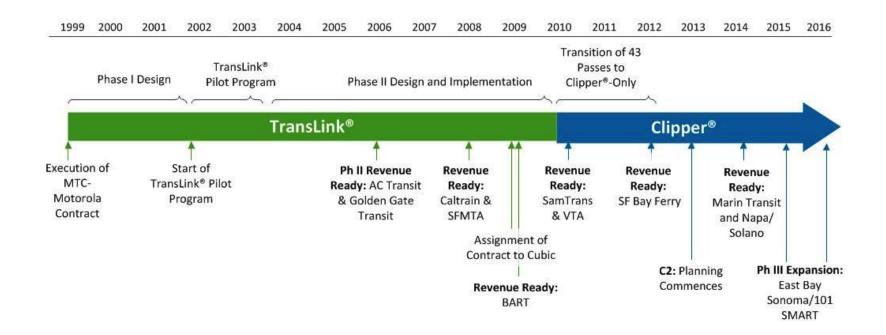
#### Fare policy

- 4 fare categories: adult, senior, youth, disabled
- 4,000+ unique fares
- 12,000+ recognized transfer combinations
- 100+ agency fare products

#### **Expansion underway**

- Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) launch fall 2016
- Union City Transit launch early 2017

### **Clipper Program History**



### **Clipper Growth**

25,000,000 20,000,000 15,000,000 10,000,000 5,000,000 0 Mar-16 Jan-12 Mar-12 May-12 Jul-12 Sep-12 Nov-12 Jan-13 Mar-13 May-13 Sep-13 Nov-13 Jan-14 Mar-14 May-14 Sep-14 Nov-14 Jan-15 Mar-15 May-15 Jul-15 Sep-15 Nov-15 Jan-16 Mar-11 Jul-13 May-11 Sep-11 Nov-11 Jul-14 Jul-11



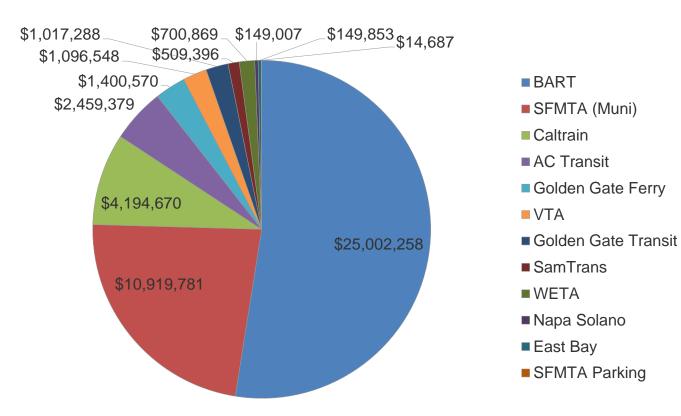


### Clipper: Snapshot of Current System Use

	March 2016
Transaction Volume	
Average Weekday Ridership	820,826
Fee-Generating Transactions	22,819,399
Unique Cards Used	897,304
Active Card Accounts	1,768,171
Settled Transit Operator Revenue	\$47,619,933



### **Clipper Use Across Agencies**



#### Clipper Revenue, March 2016

## **Clipper on Muni**

- Monthly pass customers transitioned in fall 2010
- Approximately 110,000 monthly passes sold each month
- \$123 million in revenue collected on Clipper (55% of fare revenue)
- Free Muni programs for youth, seniors and disabled provided via Clipper





### System Limitations for SFMTA

- Low-income fare category not available for Lifeline passes
- Single-use products not available to meet needs of social service clients and visitors
- Time-based fares and transfers not available



### **Current Fare Collection Developments**

- Youth age changing to 18
- Pricing differential for Clipper customers
  - Creates need for more addvalue locations
- SFMTA mobile app to serve markets not served by Clipper
  - Tourists
  - Single rides





### **Clipper: The Next Generation**

Carol Kuester, Metropolitan Transportation Commission



### Planning for the Next Generation: C2

- Current contract to operate system ends November 2019
- System limitations
  - System architecture is from the late 1990s
  - Card readers and other equipment are approaching end-of-life
  - Integrating new technologies into the existing Clipper system would be expensive and risky







### C2 Vision and Mission

- The vision for the next generation of Clipper is a customer-focused, cost-effective fare payment system that supports seamless transit travel in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- The **mission** of Clipper is to provide a convenient, flexible and efficient regional fare payment system.





### C2 Goals

#### **Customer Service**

- Provide an intuitive, efficient and familiar experience
- Provide excellent, proactive customer service

#### Governance

- Create a transparent, consistent, inclusive and timely decision-making process
- Govern the program efficiently and cost-effectively

#### Operational

- Ensure that accurate and complete data are available to support decision making at every level
- Ensure program flexibility and responsiveness
- Ensure operational efficiency and reliability



### **Contracting and Technology Alternatives**

- Focus on meeting customer needs and requests
- Speedy system changes if needed
- Regional communication infrastructure separate from fare payment
- Benefits of card- and account-based
- Single account capability
- Modern back office
- Inexpensive and accessible media
- Easy to upgrade



### **Customer Ease of Mind**

- Alternatives to pre-paid media while reducing cash
  - Limited-use tickets
- Clear messages for complex payment schemes
  - Day passes
  - Fare incentives
- Simple solutions for needs-based, disabled and other discount-eligible riders
- Choice of mood, not mode
  - Make taking bus, bike, rail, ferry, car share, walking simple







## Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI)

#### Purpose of RFEI

- Solicit vendor feedback on proposed delivery and contracting strategies
- Specifically seeking feedback on:
  - Technical aspects
  - Commercial aspects
  - Financial aspects
  - Approach to procurement
- Also would like to receive industry suggestions for:
  - Cost savings
  - Schedule acceleration



### Peer Agency Experience

#### Monitoring other agencies replacing legacy systems

- Chicago Ventra
- Seattle ORCA
- Washington D.C. Smart Trip

#### Monitoring agencies implementing new card systems

- New York MTA MetroCard
- Portland Tri Met Hop Fastpass









fastpass



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**Clipper: A Regional Approach** 

Denis Mulligan, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District



### **Clipper Governance Structure**

#### **Original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) identified:**

- MTC's Clipper-related responsibilities
- Transit agencies' Clipper-related responsibilities
- Process for amending Clipper Operating Rules
- Process for dispute resolution among program participants
- Method for MTC and transit operators to divide program costs and revenues



### Changes to MOU

#### **Creation of Clipper Executive Board**

- SFMTA, BART, Caltrain/SamTrans, AC Transit, VTA, Golden Gate Transit, MTC and two representatives of remaining transit operators
- Meets regularly
- Establishes goals and work plan
- Approves business matters

#### **Program Goals and Objectives**

#### **Clipper Contracting Agency**

- MTC defined as Clipper Contracting Agency
- Staffs Clipper program and fulfills related duties

#### **Creation of Clipper Executive Director**



### The Clipper Environment

#### **Collaboration is Key**

Staff of agencies in regular communication, identifying opportunities to cooperate on Clipper programs

#### **Customer Focus**

Clipper-only transfers (N = 403)

- 97% of Clipper customers satisfied to very satisfied
- Customers want discounts for using Clipper

#### Likeliness of Switching to Clipper Somewhat Much Total Incentive More Likely More Likely More Likely 25-cent per-ride discount (N = 403) 22% 86% 64% 50-cent per-ride discount (N = 144) 79% 8%

76%

#### Survey of Muni Cash Customers, 2014

13%

88%

90%

### **Clipper: Frequently Asked Questions**



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

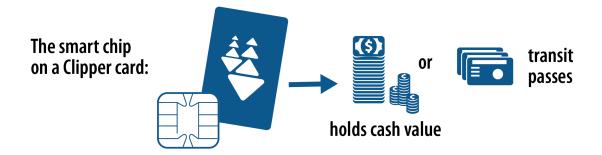
#### When can I use the value added to my card?

- You can use the value added to your card in person right away.
- If you add value online or over the phone, it may take up to 5 days for the value to be available.

#### Why does it take so long?

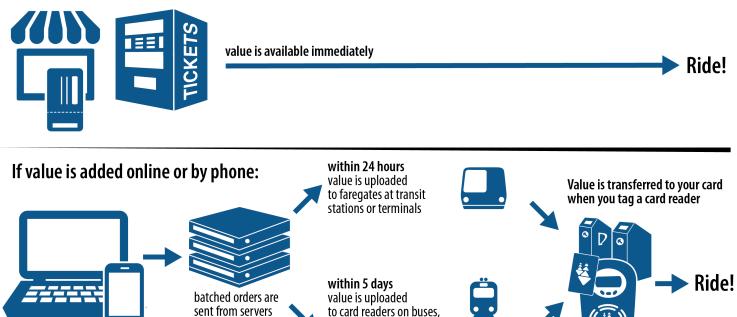
- Clipper is a card-based system, and the card has to touch a Clipper device for value to be added to it.
- It takes a day for value to be available on "hard-wired" devices like ticket machines and fare gates, but it's a two-step process for buses and light rail vehicles and takes longer – see next slide.





If value is added at a store, ticket office or ticket machine:

to Clipper devices



light rail vehicles and streetcars when they

return to the garage

or yard

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### In the next version of Clipper, will it still take this long?

 No, but we are exploring the best way to ensure that value you add remotely – such as online or over the phone – is available more quickly.





### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Why isn't there a Clipper mobile app now?

- No mobile apps for smart card fare collection systems in the U.S. today
  - Requires near-field communications (NFC)-enabled phone/device
  - Security and privacy protection significant concerns
  - Current NFC market penetration low
  - Secure element access controlled by phone providers
  - Transit agencies piloting mobile ticket systems for single rides
  - Must purchase tickets or products in advance
  - No way to support pay-as-you-go for multiple operators
- Planning for true mobile payment for next generation of Clipper
  - Manage and reload account
  - Directly pay for transit fares on multiple operators
  - Account integration for customer service, credits and other services



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