

OAKLAND: CROWD PACKS TRANSIT MEETING TO DISCUSS USE OF FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY



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- Wed, 25 Feb 2009 12:50

OAKLAND (BCN)

More than 100 people packed a Metropolitan Transportation Commission meeting in Oakland today to argue that federal stimulus money should be used to preserve current transit services and jobs instead of funding future expansion projects.

The Rev. Scott Denman of Genesis, a faith- and values-based group, alleged that it would be "unjust and immoral" to spend stimulus funds for a connector service to the Oakland International Airport and to build a new Transbay Terminal in San Francisco

Instead, Denman said the money should go toward fully funding transit operators such as the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District and San Francisco Municipal Railway.

At their meeting today, MTC board members are scheduled to allocate about \$500 million in federal rescue money to nine Bay Area counties.

MTC staff members are recommending that \$75 million be allocated to building the new Transbay Terminal and \$70 million should go toward building a connector from the Oakland Coliseum Bay Area Rapid Transit station to the Oakland International Airport.

Board members are expected to vote later today after hearing about two hours of public comment.