



Programming Recommendations for Funding of Transit Projects with Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 and 5339 Discretionary and Earned Share Apportionments

Action

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Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Transportation

Issue:

Using a competitive application process, a set of projects have been reviewed and recommended for the funding available through the discretionary share of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 and 2023 Section 5307 and 5339 programs; and FTA apportionments for FFY 2024 are now available for programming.

Request:

Approve

Recommendation for Board:

That the board: (1) program the discretionary share of Section 5307 and 5339 funds for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2022 and 2023 to the projects identified in Attachment A, and; (2) program the FTA Section 5307 and 5339 Earned Share apportionments for transit operators in the Sacramento Urbanized Area (UZA) (Attachment D), including providing Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) and Caltrans endorsed split letters.

Recommendation for Committee:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the board: (1) program the discretionary share of Section 5307 and 5339 funds for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2022 and 2023 to the projects identified in Attachment A, and; (2) program the FTA Section 5307 and 5339 Earned Share apportionments for transit operators in the Sacramento Urbanized Area (UZA) (Attachment D), including providing Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) and Caltrans endorsed split letters.

Background:

The FTA 5307 and 5339 discretionary share funding is available to eligible transit operators in the Sacramento Urbanized Area (UZA). In September 2021, the board approved the updated evaluation criteria (Attachment C) for the SACOG FTA 5307 & 5339 Discretionary Share application process. The board approved programming the earned share portion of Sections 5307 and 5339 for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2022 and 2023 in the amounts of \$32,731,467 and \$33,309,204 respectively to eligible transit operators in the Sacramento Urbanized Area. As part of the FFY 2022 and 2023 earned share funding actions the board approved the release of a Call for Projects for the discretionary share portion of the funds. The discretionary share program is based on a two-

year programming cycle. The available funds for FFY 2022 and 2023 are \$9,005,546.

These funds apply to transit operators in the Sacramento Large Urbanized Area (UZA) as well as any public transit agency that had previously received FTA Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds. Eligible transit operators include El Dorado Transit, Placer County Transit, Roseville Transit, Sacramento Regional Transit District, Yolo Transportation District, and Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority. SACOG and non-profit human service transportation providers are also eligible for funding for projects benefiting multiple transit agencies in the region.

The FTA recently released complete FFY 2024 apportionments for Section 5307 and 5339 funds, thereby allowing staff to move forward and program the Earned Share performance-based portion of the funds. These funds are available to transit operators in the Sacramento UZA. The transit operators include El Dorado Transit, Placer County Transit, Roseville Transit, Yolo Transportation District, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District.

Discussion/Analysis:

On February 7, 2024, SACOG issued the discretionary share program call for projects, with project applications due by March 8, 2024. SACOG received four (4) eligible applications from one transit agency and one non-profit transportation provider. SACOG staff along with outside agency staff were responsible for the technical evaluation and scoring of the project applications. The projects were evaluated based on policies of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), the transit operators' short-range transit plans, Transit Asset Management plans, and support of the Next Generation Transit Strategy. The first round of the Call for Projects was undersubscribed, and the projects were not scored. This left \$3,192,416 in FTA 5307/5339 funding available for a second round Call for Projects. The second call for projects was issued on April 2, 2024, with applications due by April 23, 2024. SACOG received five (5) applications from one transit agency and one non-profit transportation provider. Those projects were scored and recommended awards for the two-year cycle are provided in Attachment A. Attachment B provides brief project descriptions and funding requests for each project. Attachment C describes the project evaluation criteria and scoring methodology.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by the board, participating operators, and local jurisdictions in 2015 establishes the methodology for programming FTA funds in the Sacramento UZA. Based on the MOU methodology, 88 percent of FTA formula funds for the year are distributed through a performance-based Earned Share, and 12 percent of the funds are programmed to projects identified through a biennial competitive application process that is called the Discretionary Share. The performance-based Earned Share is calculated using operational statistics reported by the Sacramento UZA transit operators to the National Transit Database (NTD) including unlinked passenger trips (ridership), vehicle revenue miles, vehicle revenue hours, and urbanized area population from the most recent Census. SACOG is using FY 2022 NTD information and 2020 Census urbanized area population data to reflect the most up-to-date information available. The allocation total for the FFY 2024 Earned Share is \$34,518,777 shown in Attachment D. A total of \$4,707,106 in FFY 2024 funds will be available through the next Discretionary Share process expected in 2025. As part of the FTA 5307 and 5339 programming process SACOG provides split letters, in partnership with SacRT and Caltrans, to FTA showing the allocations of funds to our Sacramento UZA and small UZA operators.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

Board action will allow the transit operators receiving funding to submit applications to FTA for the allocation of the FFYs 2022 and 2023 Discretionary Share funds and FFY 2024 Earned Share funds.

List of Attachments:

Attachment A - FY 2022 and 2023 FTA 5307/5339 Discretionary Share Project Scoring

Attachment B - FY 2022 and 2023 FTA 5307/5339 Discretionary Share Project Snapshots

Attachment C - FY 2022 and 2023 FTA 5307/5339 Discretionary Share Evaluation Criteria

Attachment C2 - FY 2022 and 2023 FTA 5307/5339 Discretionary Share Next Generation Program Strategies

Attachment D - FFY 2024 FTA 5307/5339 Earned Share Programming Recommendations