



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: April 3, 2025

Agenda Item No. 2

Approve Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Transit Operators Projects for Low Carbon Transit Operations Funds

Consent

Author: Caroline Payne

Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

Issue:

The Local Carbon Transit Operations Fund (LCTOP) provides funding to transit operators for operating and capital assistance to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities.

Request:

Approve

Recommendation for Board:

That the board approve proposed transit projects and authorize the executive director to sign any required documents and submit LCTOP projects to Caltrans.

Recommendation for Committee:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the board approve proposed transit projects and authorize the executive director to sign any required documents and submit LCTOP projects to Caltrans.

Background:

In 2014, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 862 to establish the Transit, Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Communities Program. Within this program, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) was established to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities. LCTOP is administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the State Controller's Office (SCO).

In compliance with LCTOP guidelines and Caltrans requirements, the board has authorized SACOG's executive director to act as the authorized agent and contributing sponsor responsible for distributing regional LCTOP funds to local transit agencies in the four counties of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. This allows SACOG to release funds to each project lead by signing off on the Project Description and Allocation Request form.

This year, the project proposals and allocation request forms are due to Caltrans on April 24, 2025. Staff has compiled a list of projects submitted by transit operators for the board to approve.

In the LCTOP guidelines, a transit agency may also submit any changes to prior approved projects for the board to approve. As such, Yolo Transportation District (YoloTD) submitted, and the board approved an FY 2020-2022 project. The Project, Route 42 A/B Expansion, has closed, and funds will be transferred to Fiscal Year 2024-2025 project.

Discussion/Analysis:

Caltrans' LCTOP program requires operators to submit proposed eligible projects to SACOG for approval after their respective governing boards have approved the projects. Staff, in coordination with operators, has compiled a list of eligible projects in the four-county region for the board to approve. Projects will be submitted for review by Caltrans and CARB to ensure compliance with SB 862 requirements and LCTOP guidelines. The approved projects will then be submitted to the State Controller's Office (SCO) in May and funds will be available for allocation in June 2025. Transit operators, as project leads, will be responsible for reporting to Caltrans on project milestones and final products.

The El Dorado County Transportation Commission and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency administer LCTOP funding and project approvals for their respective counties.

In March, the State Controller published funds available for allocation and the board adopted the allocations in March 2025. Funds are distributed based on Public Utilities Code (PUC 99313) which is based on the region's share of state population and Public Utilities Code 99314 (PUC 99314) which is based on each operator's revenue reported to the State Controller.

In FY 2024-2025, the State has appropriated \$5,129,210 in regional LCTOP funds (PUC Section 99313) and \$1,752,746 in operator funds (PUC Section 99314) in the four-county SACOG region. The year's LCTOP totals to \$6,881,956. Since the establishment of the program, it has been SACOG's standing policy and practice to distribute the funding by a population-based formula to eligible transit operators.

Sacramento County will contribute its share of funds to Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT). Stipulated in the LCTOP program guidelines, an agency may contribute its share of funds to another agency.

Staff propose distributing \$124,240 in available regional funds not allocated to any specific transit operator to YoloTD for the purchase of a Zero Emission Electric Battery bus. The unallocated portion has been assigned to operators on a yearly rotation basis.

YoloTD has closed FY 2021 project and is transferring funds to the FY 2024-2025 project to meet current transit need. This change is consistent with the LCTOP program guidelines, and it has been approved by YoloTD's board.

Attachment A shows FY 2024-2025 list of transit operators' projects, project descriptions and a change to Yolo County Transportation District (YoloTD) FY 2021 project change.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

There is no fiscal impact to SACOG's operating budget. The funds are allocated by formula to local transit operators. Staff time for administering the program is reflected in the agency's budget and Overall Work Program (OWP).

List of Attachments:

1. Transit Operator Projects and Descriptions
2. SACOG Resolution
3. Sacramento County Contribution Letter