



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: May 2, 2024

[[!Agenda Item No. {{item.number}}!]]

Approve Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Regional Program of Projects for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5311 Funds

Consent

Author: Barbara VaughanBechtold

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Kristina Svensk

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

Issue:

SACOG, working with the three eligible rural transit operators, has prepared the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Regional Program of Projects (POP) for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5311 rural transit funding.

Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the board approve by resolution the FY 2023-2024 FTA Section 5311 Program of Projects.

Background/Analysis:

The FTA Section 5311 program provides funding for public transportation in non-urbanized areas. The FTA apportions funds to the states according to a statutory formula based on each state's population in non-urbanized areas (those under 50,000 population). The funds are available to the state for obligation for the year of apportionment plus two additional years.

In California, ten percent of the funds are set aside in a state reserve, 15 percent are allocated for intercity bus transportation, and 75 percent are apportioned to the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) for the support of non-urbanized public transportation. The Program of Projects (POP) adopted by each RTPA for its apportioned funds must be included in the State POP submitted by Caltrans to the FTA.

Discussion/Analysis:

In the SACOG region, three public transportation providers are currently eligible to apply for FTA Section 5311 funds: Sacramento County's South County Transit (SCT/LINK), Yolo Transportation District (YTD), and Yuba-Sutter Transit. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and the El Dorado County Transportation Commission complete FTA Section 5311 POPs for the respective counties they serve as RTPAs.

The FTA Section 5311 programmed apportionments for the SACOG region is \$1,128,830 for FY 2023-2024. Per Board policy, these funds are apportioned to the three eligible providers based on their share of the rural population in the decennial census (2020 Census). The regional POP (Attachment A) provides a total of \$1,128,830 for rural transit operations of SCT/LINK (\$454,123), YTD (\$207,973), and Yuba-Sutter Transit (\$466,734). Upon Board approval, SACOG will submit the POP to Caltrans for submission to the FTA, enabling the agencies to apply for the 5311 funds for this purpose.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The FTA 5311 Program of Projects does not impact SACOG's operating budget beyond the staff time already included in the agency's overall work program. If approved by resolution, the FTA 5311 Program of Projects will be forwarded to Caltrans allowing the eligible transit operators to apply for funds to support the continued operation of important rural transit services. The transit operator's FTA 5311 applications are due to Caltrans by May 30, 2024.