



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: April 1, 2021

Agenda Item No. 4

Approving Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 CRRSAA Funds

Action

Prepared by: Barbara VaughanBechtold

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Referring Committee: Not Applicable

1. Issue:

Caltrans has received California Transportation Commission (CTC), California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) support and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval to award a set portion of the Sacramento Urbanized Area (UZA) FTA 5310 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds for operating to four current awardees from the most recent funding cycle. FTA Section 5310 funds can only be used to provide transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities.

2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the board approve the four CRRSAA FTA Section 5310 awards (Attachment A); certify that all four awardees meet Section 5310 requirements and conditions and have been reviewed in the region's public participation process (Attachment B); and certify, by resolution (Attachment C), that the recommended awards in the Sacramento UZA are consistent with SACOG's adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

3. Background/Analysis:

Since the inception of the COVID-19 crisis, human service and non-profit transportation providers in the SACOG region and across the country have seen drastic decreases in ridership and revenue, while incurring unplanned costs for health and safety. On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) was signed into law. This included \$50 million nationally for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 program. Of this, the Sacramento UZA was apportioned \$273,439. According to the intent of the legislation, the funds may be used for payroll and operations of public transit, and operating expenses that are necessary to operate, maintain, and manage a public transportation system. Operating expenses typically include such costs as driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year, including personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. The CRRSAA waived the typical expenditure requirement that 55 percent of funding be expended on capital costs and allows agencies to request reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenses. The FTA Section 5310 program provides transportation funds, usually on a competitive basis, for the purchase of equipment or services to transport or improve access to transportation for seniors and people with disabilities. SACOG has Memoranda of Understanding with Caltrans that gives SACOG, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and four-county Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the responsibility for approval of award amounts in the region's eligible Sacramento UZA. SACOG must approve the allocation for FTA 5310 CRRSAA funds for the Sacramento UZA for them to be included in the grant submitted by Caltrans to the FTA.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

In March 2021, SACOG staff met with Caltrans' regarding the distribution of the FTA 5310 CRRSAA funds in Sacramento UZA. Attachment A lists the additional awards for each current project. Staff has reviewed and determined that all applicants meet requirements for MPO/RTPA certification and assurances (Attachment B). If approved, the Sacramento UZA funding awards will be forwarded to Caltrans for inclusion in the 5310 CRRSAA grant that Caltrans will submit to FTA. Small urban/rural 5310 projects were selected by Caltrans and approved by the CTC in March 2021. In order to expedite the disbursement of the funds in the most efficient and equitable manner, Caltrans with the support of the CTC and CalSTA proposed to utilize the current project list which was also supported by the regions and approved by the FTA in August 2020. This would allow current subrecipients to "opt-in" to receive CRRSAA funds. On January 25, 2021, Caltrans released a survey to all current subrecipients to assess their COVID-19 impacts and inquire if they wanted to "opt-in" to receive additional CRRSAA funding. For the Sacramento UZA four of the six current FTA 5310 subrecipients opted-in: Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley, Pride Industries Transit, Shores of Hope, and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Sacramento. Based on the funding available, each agency that opted in will receive a new \$68,360 operating assistance agreement with Caltrans to reimburse for operating expenses. These costs may be backdated to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (January 20, 2020). CRRSAA transit funding is being provided at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and is available for expenses generally eligible under FTA funding programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

If approved and certified by resolution, the FTA 5310 CRRSAA awards will be forwarded to Caltrans allowing the them to apply for funds to support the continued operation of important human service and non-profit transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Objective 2: Support innovative mobility options that develop equitable, accessible transportation options for all residents.

Objective 3: Prioritize cost-effective transportation investments that enhance mobility while improving safety, air quality, and the condition of transportation infrastructure and assets.