



## Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: April 1, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5

Approve Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Regional Program of Projects for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5311 CRRSAA Funds

Action

**Prepared by:** Barbara VaughanBechtold

**Attachments:** Yes

**Approved by:** Matt Carpenter

**Referring Committee:** Not Applicable

### 1. Issue:

In coordination with the three eligible rural public transit operators in the four-county SACOG region, staff has prepared the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Regional Program of Projects (POP) recommended for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5311 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) rural transit funding. FTA 5311 CRRSAA is providing \$2,226,671 in funding to our region's rural transit agencies to help them respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee recommend that the board approve by resolution the FFY 2021 FTA Section 5311 CRRSAA Program of Projects.

### 3. Background/Analysis:

Since the inception of the COVID-19 crisis, rural transit 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 CRRSAA was signed into law providing \$900 billion in support for a variety of industries affected by COVID-19, including the transit industry. As part of the federal legislation, the FTA allocated \$14 billion to recipients of urbanized and rural area formula funds, as well as senior and disabled mobility funds. The FTA Section 5311 program provides funding for public transportation in non-urbanized areas. The FTA apportions funds to states according to a statutory formula based on each state's population in non-urbanized areas (those under 50,000 population). Caltrans has apportioned the FTA 5311 CRRSAA funds to the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) in California for the support of non-urbanized transportation. SACOG must adopt a Program of Projects (POP) for our RTPA area apportioned funds to be included in the State POP submitted by Caltrans to the FTA.

### 4. Discussion/Analysis:

In the four-county SACOG RTPA region, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties, three rural public transit providers are currently eligible to apply for FTA Section 5311 CRRSAA Act funds: Sacramento County's South County Transit (SCT/LINK), Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD), and Yuba-Sutter Transit (YSTA). The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and the El Dorado County Transportation Commission will complete FTA Section 5311 CRRSAA Act POPs for the respective counties where they serve as RTPAs. The FTA Section 5311 CRRSAA programmed apportionment for the SACOG region is \$2,226,671 for FFY 2021. Per board policy, 5311 funds are apportioned to the three eligible providers based on their share of the rural population in the most recent decennial census (2010 Census). The regional POP (Attachment A) provides a

total of \$1,263,043 for rural transit operations of SCT/LINK and YCTD, and \$963,628 in capital funds for YSTA. CRRSAA transit funding is being provided at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and is available to support operating, capital, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. CRRSAA funds do not sunset and are available to be used until exhausted. Upon board approval by resolution, SACOG will submit the POP to Caltrans for submission to the FTA, enabling the agencies to apply for the 5311 CRRSAA funds for these purposes.

**5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

If approved by resolution, the FTA 5311 CRRSAA 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.

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

**Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity**

**Objective 3:** Improve people's ability to get to jobs, schools, and other economic opportunities.