



Approve Reallocation of Public Transportation Modernization Improvements and Service Enhancement Account Funding to Unitrans Battery Electric Bus Acquisition

Consent

Prepared by: Michael Rosson

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

SACOG staff is requesting to reprogram savings of \$1.8 million and earned interest of approximately \$300,000, for a total of \$2.16 million, to Unitrans' Electric Bus Purchase project which is eligible for Public Transportation Modernization Improvements and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) funds.

2. Recommendation:

The Transportation Committee unanimously recommend that the Board of Directors: (a) approve the reallocation of \$2,159,000 in regional Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 PTMISEA funds for Unitrans Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Purchase; (b) approve the resolution in Attachment A to authorize the Executive Director to submit a reallocation request to Caltrans; and (c) execute a sub-recipient funding agreement with Unitrans to develop and implement the project.

3. Background/Analysis:

The repurposed funds are part of the Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA), a program created by Proposition 1B, the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006. The program is a 10-year, transit capital bond program that was approved by the California State Legislature in 2008, and funds may be used for transit rehabilitation, safety or modernization improvements, capital service enhancements or expansion, new capital projects, bus rapid transit improvements or rolling stock (buses and rail cars) procurement, rehabilitation or replacement.

SACOG is the recipient of these regional funds for the four- county region. (Govt. Code, Section 8879.55 (a)(2); Pub. Util. Code, Section 99313.) Funds are appropriated to the State Controller's Office for allocation to SACOG, which passes the funding to transit agencies who act as project managers. In FY 2007-2008, Senate Bill 88 identified the Department of Transportation as the administering agency. The final appropriation of program funds was made in the FY 2014-2015 State Budget.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Approximately \$3.3 million was allocated to Unitrans for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Capital Improvements project and it was completed under budget, and roughly \$1.8 million in PTMISEA funds remain on the project. The PTMISEA program has earned interest of approximately \$300,000 which can only be spent on an eligible PTMISEA project. SACOG staff proposes that these savings and earned interest be reprogrammed

to the Unitrans Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Acquisition project which is eligible under PTMISEA guidelines. Unitrans is purchasing 40-foot, Battery-Electric New Flyers buses. The 40-foot low-floor Battery Electric Buses will consist of extended-range and zero emission “advanced technology.” The BEB will have a kneeling system that shall lower the entrance(s) of the bus during loading or unloading passengers. The BEB will have a minimum expected useful life of twelve 12 years or 500,000 miles.

Unitrans is utilizing the California Department of General Services (DGS) procurement of the BEBs to ensure the project is completed and the funds are expended by the program sunset date of June 30, 2023.

Staff is recommending the SACOG Board approval to:

- 1) Reallocate PTMISEA funds for the Unitrans Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Acquisition project by:
 - (a) approving the reallocation of \$2,159,000 in regional Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 PTMISEA funds for Unitrans Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Acquisition;
 - (b) approving the resolution in Attachment A authorizing the Executive Director to submit a reallocation request to Caltrans; and
 - (c) executing a sub-recipient funding agreement with Unitrans to develop and implement the project.

The recommended action is administrative and not a new funding commitment being made by the Board. The reallocation of PTMISEA funds is made possible from new budget capacity in the account due to the implementation savings from Unitrans Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Capital Improvements project. This is simply the project delivery means to implement the PTMISEA funding awards by the Board.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This action will reallocate funds for Unitrans Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Acquisition project. There is no fiscal impact to SACOG’s operating budget from the PTMISEA program. SACOG receives no funding to administer the PTMISEA program. The staff time to administer the funds is included in the agency’s adopted Overall Work Program. PTMISEA funds are for transit capital projects and therefore allocated to qualifying transit operator projects.

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

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Objective 1: Invest in and protect the transportation infrastructure needed to implement the region’s economic prosperity plan.

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

Objective 5: Begin sustained effort to address the racial inequities related to economic prosperity indicators associated with housing, transportation, and opportunity.

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Objective 1: Develop more sustainable sources of future transportation funding while winning new competitive state and federal transportation grants.

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.