



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: October 3, 2019

Agenda Item No. 6

Volunteer Transportation Programs

Information

Prepared by: Barbara VaughanBechtold

Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

SACOG has completed a guide titled “Filling the Gap: A Guide to Volunteer Transportation” that highlights best practices and strategies for providing cost-effective mobility services to special needs populations.

2. Recommendation:

None, this is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

Prior to the study work being launched, SACOG’s support to volunteer transportation providers in the region was largely limited to helping them pursue competitive funding to meet their capital investment needs. The primary funding source has been the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 program. The most recent FTA 5310 awards to the region included funding for two volunteer transportation providers:

- Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services – Senior Adult Services division senior volunteer transportation programs that support several supportive services for seniors and dependent individuals. These programs include the Senior Companions Program where low-income seniors provide 15 hours per week of escorted transportation services to isolated and/or frail seniors or adults with disabilities.
- ACC Senior Services (non-profit senior services for those 60 and over) – ACC Rides is a lifeline donation-based service that provides transportation for seniors 60 years of age and over who cannot drive or utilize public transit due to mobility, physical, or cognitive disabilities and lack other means of transport. Volunteer drivers operate ADA accessible vehicles provided by ACC rides to transport clients throughout the Sacramento area.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

The strategies and recommendations in SACOG’s volunteer transportation guide are largely focused on mobility services for seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income residents. Volunteer transportation programs are of particular value in the suburban and rural portions of the region where fixed-route and demand response transit services are more limited and costlier to provide.

The primary author of the guide, Sharon Sprowls, will be leading the presentation to the Transportation

Committee.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

There is no fiscal impact to SACOG's operating budget. The volunteer transportation guide was fully funded by a Caltrans planning grant.

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

6 - Help the Region Advance a Vision for "Next Generation Transit"