

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	5/22/12
SUBJECT:	Correspondence
AGENDA ITEM:	12-14
STAFF CONTACT:	Janie Coffman

Attached is correspondence determined to be of interest to the board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Little', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Letters from Shasta County RTPA to:
Senator Barbara Boxer – MAP-21
City of Redding – Prop 84 Grant Application
Caltrans Headquarters - JARC Application
Caltrans Headquarters - NF Application



Shasta County

Regional Transportation
Planning Agency

1855 Placer Street • Redding, CA 96001 • (530)225-5654 • FAX (530)225-5667
E-Mail scrtpa@co.shasta.ca.us • HOME PAGE www.scrtpa.org

Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

January 27, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: MAP-21/Surface Transportation Reauthorization – Request for Amendment

Dear Senator Boxer:

The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SCRTPA) is grateful for your leadership on behalf of Highway Bill Reauthorization: “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” (MAP 21). In particular, the SCRTPA supports the inclusion of consistent overall funding levels, innovative financing solutions, environmental review streamlining, and accelerated project delivery processes. **The purpose of this letter is to underscore the harmful consequences of one key provision – the proposal to eliminate metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) under 200,000 in population**

This about-face in long established transportation planning policy would affect a third of California MPO regions and hundreds more across the country. In particular, the SCRTPA is greatly alarmed by the following prospects:

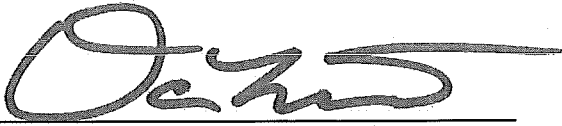
- The elimination of smaller MPOs would result in the expulsion of local elected officials from critical transportation funding decisions within their respective regions. Local elected officials are uniquely qualified to understand and respond to their community's needs. The expanding role and influence of unelected state officials would squelch these voices.
- Smaller MPO regions represent the nation's up-and-coming urban communities – the front line where progress toward state and national objectives will be realized. The loss of smaller MPOs would reverse decades of capacity-building and incremental progress toward coordinated planning.

- The elimination of smaller MPOs would weaken innovative regional planning efforts occurring across California aimed at reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Expelling existing smaller MPOs would result in increased competition among rural agencies for limited transportation funding. State departments of transportation would in turn bear significantly more planning and programming responsibility. This shift of local planning to the state would be a major regression from past reauthorization efforts to involve communities in federal decision making.

In solidarity with our regional counterparts and state planning partners, the SCRTPA respectfully requests that MAP-21 be amended to maintain the current MPO threshold, grandfather existing MPOs, or allow for states to determine for themselves what is most appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important legislation.

Sincerely,

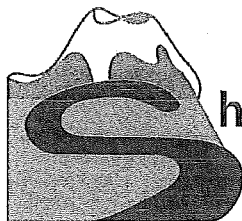


Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

DSL/DTW/jac

By fax (202) 228-2382

c: Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate
Honorable Wally Herger, California State Congressman
David Napoliello, Senate EPW Committee Senior Policy Adviser
Malcolm Dougherty, Acting Caltrans Director
John Bulinski, Caltrans District 2 Director



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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

February 10, 2012

Doug DeMallie, Planning Manager
City of Redding
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Support for City of Redding's Prop 84 Sustainable Communities Grant Application

Dear Mr. DeMallie:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide input on the City of Redding's Prop 84 Sustainable Communities Program grant application for the update of the Downtown Redding Specific Plan. The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) is pleased to confirm our support for this much needed project and pledges to participate as needed to insure successful delivery. In particular, we appreciate your focus on transportation-efficient land use strategies, including efforts geared toward the infill/redevelopment of vacant and underutilized parcels and a walkable downtown.

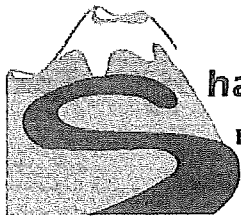
As you are aware, the stated intent of 'Focus Area #1: Local Sustainable Planning' is to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to AB 32 and SB 375. As home to the region's largest concentration of jobs, Downtown Redding will play a critical role in the forthcoming Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and in the region's ability to manage growth in vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

The RTPA has earmarked up to \$110,000 in FY 11/12 and \$50,000 in FY 12/13 in the overall work program for local agencies use toward activities that would support development of the region's SCS. Inasmuch as the Downtown Redding Specific Plan Update would help provide inputs and assumptions useful in the SCS process, we would encourage you to coordinate with the RTPA and leverage these funds.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

DSL/DTW/jac



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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

February 10, 2012

RTM 040007

Department of Transportation
Division of Mass Transportation, MS #39
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Subject: Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) Application

The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency would like to express support for Golden Umbrella's application for FY 2011/12 JARC funds.

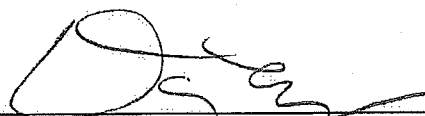
Golden Umbrella's services for disabled adults and seniors are invaluable to the Shasta County community. The Foster Grandparents program provides role models, mentors and friends for area children needing hands-on adult involvement in their lives.

With a majority of volunteer grandparents being low-income seniors there is great need for mileage reimbursement. Many Shasta County seniors live in rural areas of the county with limited or no access to public transportation and are forced to drive into the urban core. Without a stipend to cover transportation costs, volunteers may not be able to afford to volunteer. Reimbursable mileage provides supplemental income to seniors with limited means.

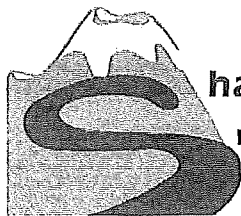
Foster Grandparents supports regional transportation goals. The Shasta County Coordinated Human Transportation Plan identifies "Developing volunteer driver programs" as a priority for short-range coordination effort and strategies (Page 20, Priority 12). Our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2010 further identifies researching opportunities for volunteer driver's programs and obtaining maximum transit system efficiency as short-range objectives (Chapter 4, Section O-7 and O-11). Golden Umbrella's Foster Grandparents program is consistent with regional and statewide transportation goals. The SCRTPA supports this project for funding.

Please feel free to contact Sue Crowe at 530-245-6826 or slcrowe@co.shasta.ca.us or Anne Jensen at 530-225-5430 or ajensen@co.shasta.ca.us with any questions.

Sincerely,


Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

DSL/ACJ/jac



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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

February 10, 2012

RTM 040007

Department of Transportation
Division of Mass Transportation, MS #39
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Subject: Golden Umbrella New Freedom (NF) Application

The Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SCRTPA) would like to express support for Golden Umbrella's application for FY 2011/12 NF funds.

Golden Umbrella's services for disabled adults and seniors are invaluable to the Shasta County community. The Senior Companion program allows seniors to retain their independence, remain in their homes and reduces the cost of in-home health care.

Golden Umbrella's application for NF funds supports regional transportation goals. The Shasta County Coordinated Human Transportation Plan identifies "Developing volunteer driver programs" as a priority for short-range coordination effort and strategies (Page 20, Priority 12). Our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2010 further identifies opportunities for volunteer driver's programs and obtaining maximum transit system efficiency as short-range objectives (Chapter 4, Section O-7 and O-11), both of which are enacted through the senior companions program.

The majority of volunteer senior companions are low-income seniors. Without a stipend to cover transportation costs, volunteers may not be able to afford to volunteer. If awarded the NF grant Golden Umbrella would be able to provide mileage reimbursement to volunteer drivers, enabling success of the program and serving seniors who might have no other transportation options or live beyond the reach of alternate transit service.

Golden Umbrella's Senior Companion program provides interconnectivity to outlying areas without public transportation, making transit coverage as a region more efficient and complete. Golden Umbrella's Senior Companion program is consistent with regional and statewide transportation goals. The SCRTPA supports this project for funding.

Please feel free to contact Sue Crowe at 530-245-6826 or slcrowe@co.shasta.ca.us or Anne Jensen at 530-225-5430 or ajensen@co.shasta.ca.us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta County Regional Transportation
Planning Agency (MPO)

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