

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	April 27, 2023
SUBJECT:	Approve Fiscal Year 2022/23 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Funding for Expanded ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Services; Expanded Consolidated Transportation Services Agency; and Redding Area Bus Authority's All Electric Van Replacement Local Match Project
AGENDA ITEM:	11
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The fiscal year (FY) 2022/23 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) allocation to the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) totals \$433,135. It is recommended the funding go toward continued support of the expanded Sunday On-Demand Transit service, Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) service expansion for additional service hours, and toward a Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) zero-emission van.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign Resolution 23-06 allocating,
 - a. \$234,627 in FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds to the ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion (Year 4);
 - b. \$142,358 in FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds to the ShastaConnect Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Service Expansion (Year 3); and
 - c. \$66,150 to the RABA All Electric Van Replacement Local Match; and
2. Authorize the executive director to sign the Certifications and Assurances and Authorized Agent forms for the LCTOP applications, including any necessary amendments.

DISCUSSION:

Background – LCTOP provides public transportation funding for new or enhanced transit services that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility. LCTOP funds must be allocated to an approved project by the application deadline, or the funds are redistributed elsewhere in California. LCTOP funds cannot supplant existing services or funding, and expenditures must start within six months of award. New or expanded services must demonstrate greenhouse gas emission reductions. SRTA and RABA applications are due on May 1, 2023, for the projects described below and require board of directors' confirmation by resolution.

ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion Project – The board of directors has historically allocated LCTOP funds for ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service as a demonstration project that went through rough times during the pandemic and yet provided nearly 9,500 rides on Sundays since 2019. The existing allocations are estimated to fund operational costs until Fall 2023. SRTA is requesting FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds to continue the service until Fall 2024, providing SRTA time to evaluate the service, and determine whether the

service should continue. Staff anticipates conducting a study in FY 2023/24 to determine an appropriate fare for Sunday transit services and how to implement it within the existing Via software platform. Once implemented, SRTA will be able to test community response and willingness to use the service with fares to determine long-term viability.

Table 1: History of LCTOP funds allocated to Sunday service

2017/18	Sunday Transit Service Demonstration Project (for service startup and free fares)	\$231,865
2019/20	ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion	\$135,848
2020/21	ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion(Year 2)	\$115,910
2021/22	ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion(Year 3)	\$200,000
Total		\$683,623
2022/23	ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion(Year 4)	\$234,627
New Total (pending board approval)		\$918,250

ShastaConnect Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Service Expansion – The board of directors has historically allocated LCTOP funds for ShastaConnect CTSA Service Expansion that went through rough times during the pandemic and yet provided over 21,071 rides Mondays through Fridays since 2020. SRTA is requesting FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds to expand ShastaConnect Monday through Friday services to allow for increased afternoon hours. The proposed project would increase Monday through Friday service hours until 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. to address community rider needs mentioned during the FY 2023/24 Unmet Transit Needs process, including those needing Veterans Administration Clinic services. Should the project be funded, DHCL would finalize their service plan to increase hours with a planned implementation likely by end of Summer or early Fall 2023, depending on when the LCTOP are made available. It's anticipated LCTOP grant funds may cover the increased expenses for FY 2023/24.

Table 2: History of LCTOP funds allocated to CTSA service expansion

2019/20	ShastaConnect CTSA Ridership Eligibility Expansion Project	\$191,144
2020/21	ShastaConnect CTSA Ridership Eligibility Expansion Project (Year 2)	\$ 67,255
Total		\$258,399
2022/23	ShastaConnect Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Service Expansion (Year 3)	\$142,358
New Total (pending board approval)		\$400,757

RABA All Electric Van Replacement Local Match Project – RABA is required to transition to a zero-emission vehicle fleet under California's Innovative Clean Transit Rule. Starting in 2026, twenty-five percent of RABA's vehicle purchases must be zero-emission. RABA is requesting 2022/23 LCTOP funds to serve as local match funds (20%) to purchase a zero-emission battery electric van. Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 or 5339 funds would cover the remaining 80% of the vehicle cost.

The new vehicle will replace a van that will have exceeded its useful life by the time of purchase and will benefit public health by reducing tailpipe pollutants. This will be the third RABA vehicle purchase that SRTA has contributed regional funds towards as shown in the Table 3 on the next page. There have been delays in using the appropriate vendor process. It is expected those issues may resolve soon, and staff still recommends supporting the project with regional funds for a 20 percent local match.

Table 3: History of LCTOP and State of Good Repair (SGR) funds allocated to RABA zero emission vehicles

2020/21	Zero Emission Van Modernization Project <i>RABA has identified matching funds (i.e., HVIP and PTMISEA)</i>	\$233,014
2022/23 SGR	RABA Zero Emission Bus Replacement and Add a New Charger <i>Replacement of an existing bus and add a charging station for the bus</i>	\$128,325
Total		\$361,339
2022/23	RABA All Electric Van Replacement Local Match Project <i>RABA has identified FTA 5339 and 5307 for main (80%) contribution</i>	\$ 66,150
Total		\$427,489

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may decline to allocate FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds to the proposed projects and allocate funds to a different project(s) provided the project(s) meets all LCTOP eligibility criteria. Another funding source would need to be identified for ShastaConnect services to continue or for RABA to fully fund their zero-emission van.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans and the California Air Resources Board administer the LCTOP funds. Dignity Health Connected Living operates the ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit and CTSA Monday – Friday services. RABA provides fixed-route and complementary paratransit services in the Shasta Region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action allocates \$433,135 in regional FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds toward the projects described above. The allocations fully fund services and capital needs with other grant funds, allowing the region to test alternative methods of service delivery, respond to increased ridership needs, provide match funds towards a zero-emission vehicle, and reduce the potential need to use Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds towards these efforts.



Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment: Resolution 23-06

RESOLUTION 23-06



A RESOLUTION OF THE SHASTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES AND AUTHORIZED AGENT FORMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM FOR THE SHASTACONNECT SUNDAY ON-DEMAND TRANSIT SERVICE EXPANSION PROJECT (YEAR 4) FOR \$234,627; SHASTACONNECT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGENCY EXPANSION (YEAR 3) FOR \$142,358; AND AUTHORIZE AWARDED \$66,150 IN FUNDS TOWARDS REDDING AREA BUS AUTHORITY'S ALL ELECTRIC VAN REPLACEMENT LOCAL MATCH PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) is an eligible project sponsor and may receive state funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) for transit projects; and

WHEREAS, SRTA received an allocation of \$433,135 in regional (PUC 99313) LCTOP funds for fiscal year (FY) 2022/23; and

WHEREAS, the statutes related to state-funded transit projects require a local or regional implementing agency to abide by various regulations; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 862 (2014) named the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as the administrative agency for the LCTOP; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has developed guidelines for the purpose of administering and distributing LCTOP funds to eligible project sponsors; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors wishes to delegate authorization to execute the fiscal year (FY) 2022/23 LCTOP certifications, assurances and authorized agent forms and any amendments thereto to the executive director; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors supports continued efforts to fund the Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion project for an additional service year to evaluate the community need for ongoing public transit services on Sundays with \$234,627 in regional FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors supports continued efforts to fund the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Expansion project for additional service hours to evaluate the community need for ongoing public transit services not being met with traditional fixed route services with \$142,358 in regional FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds; and

WHEREAS, the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) submitted a request for regional FY 2022/23 LCTOP funding toward their \$330,750 RABA All Electric Van Replacement Local Match Project; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors agrees to be a contributing sponsor and provide \$66,150 in regional FY 2022/23 LCTOP funding as the 20 percent match funds toward the RABA All Electric Van Replacement Local Match Project, with RABA providing matching funds to fully fund the project; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors wishes to implement the LCTOP projects listed below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency:

1. Agrees to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in the Certification and Assurances and the Authorized Agent documents and applicable statutes, regulations, and guidelines for LCTOP funded transit projects; and
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to execute all required documents of the LCTOP program and any amendments thereto with Caltrans; and
3. Authorizes submittal of the following project nomination(s) and allocation request(s) to Caltrans in FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds:

Project Name: ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion (Year 4).

Amount of LCTOP funds requested: \$234,627

Short description of project: Expansion of the ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit service area to include the cities of Anderson and Shasta Lake, and some nearby unincorporated county areas.

Benefit to a Priority Population: Provides increased access to public transportation.

Project Name: ShastaConnect Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Service Expansion (Year 3).

Amount of LCTOP funds requested: \$142,358

Short description of project: Expansion of service hours for the ShastaConnect Monday-Friday Consolidated Transportation Services Agency service.

Benefit to a Priority Population: Provides increased access to public transportation.

4. Authorizes allocating to RABA \$66,150 in regional FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds for the following project:

Project Name: RABA All Electric Van Replacement Local Match

Amount of LCTOP funds requested: \$66,150

Short description of project: RABA will purchase one electric cut-a-way van for the Demand Response service.

Benefit to a Priority Population: Provides increased access to clean and/or shared transportation options.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April 2023, by the Board of Directors of the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency by the following vote:

Mark Mezzano, Chair

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency

ATTEST:

Sean Tiedgen, Executive Director

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency