

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	April 28, 2022
SUBJECT:	Approve Fiscal Year 2021/22 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Funding totaling \$433,014 for “Year 3” of Expanded ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Services and Redding Area Bus Authority’s Zero-Emission Van Modernization Project
AGENDA ITEM:	5-11
STAFF CONTACT:	Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The fiscal year (FY) 2021/22 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) allocation to the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) totals \$433,014. Continued funding of the expanded Sunday On-Demand Transit service and funding toward a Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) zero-emission van are recommended.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign Resolution 22-04, allocating \$200,000 in FY 2021/22 LCTOP funds to the ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion (Year 3) Project and \$233,014 to the Redding Area Bus Authority’s Zero-Emission Van Modernization Project; 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 (March 25, 2022), 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 may receive funding for up to five years to help agencies determine if those services are viable and can demonstrate greenhouse gas emission reductions. SRTA and RABA submitted applications on March 24, 2022, for the below projects and require board of directors’ confirmation.

Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion Project – At the [April 2021 meeting](#), the board of directors allocated FY 2020/21 LCTOP funds for expanding Sunday On-Demand Transit services to the cities of Anderson and Shasta Lake, and additional areas in the city of Redding. The expanded Sunday On-Demand Transit service launched on November 1, 2020. Ridership for the service is steadily growing with 4,581 passenger trips provided through March 31, 2022 – half of that in the last six months. With ridership recovering from impacts of the COVID pandemic, ongoing funding is necessary to fully evaluate the potential benefits of the Sunday On-Demand Transit service with expected “normal” service. This supports prior direction to finance

operational costs of the expanded service area until at least December 2023, providing SRTA time to evaluate the service as intended, and determine whether the service should continue.

RABA Zero-Emission Van Modernization 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 funds to purchase and evaluate a zero-emission battery electric van. The new vehicle will be the first all-electric van put into revenue service, replaces one that has exceeded its useful life, and will benefit public health by reducing tailpipe pollutants. Additional charging infrastructure funds are not being requested because the new van is compatible with existing vehicle chargers.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may decline to allocate FY 2021/22 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 Sunday On-Demand Transit 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 services. RABA provides fixed-route and complementary paratransit services in the Shasta Region. *///The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.///*

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action allocates \$433,014 in FY 2021/22 LCTOP funds toward the following projects:

- \$200,000 for operational costs for the expanded Sunday On-Demand Transit service; and
- \$233,014 to replace a RABA gasoline fueled paratransit van with an all-electric van.

FY 2019/20 and 2020/21 LCTOP funds (\$251,758) provided funds for operations, software, and outreach materials for “Year 1” and “Year 2” of the expanded Sunday On-Demand Transit services. FY 2022/23 LCTOP funds may be needed for continued expanded services.

RABA plans to purchase an all-electric van for \$315,000. FY 2021/22 LCTOP funds will provide \$233,014 towards the purchase. RABA will provide matching funds of \$69,000 from California’s Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) and \$12,986 from Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) funds.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment:

A: Resolution 22-04

B: FY 2021/22 LCTOP Authorized Agent Form – Sunday Transit Expansion (Year 3)

RESOLUTION



RESOLUTION NUMBER:	22-04
SUBJECT:	Authorization for the Execution of the Certifications and Assurances and Authorized Agent Forms for the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program for the ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion Project (Year 3) for \$200,000, and Authorize Awarding \$233,014 in Funds Towards RABA's Zero Emission Van Modernization 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 \$433,014 in regional (PUC 99313) LCTOP funds for fiscal year (FY) 2021/22; 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) 2021/22 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 \$200,000 in regional FY 2021/22 LCTOP funds; and

WHEREAS, the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) submitted a request for regional FY 2021/22 LCTOP funding toward their \$315,000 Zero Emission Van Modernization project; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors agrees to be a contributing sponsor and provide \$233,014 in regional FY 2021/22 LCTOP funding toward RABA's Zero Emission Van Modernization 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 2021/22 LCTOP funds:

Project Name: ShastaConnect Sunday On-Demand Transit Service Expansion Project (Year 3).

Amount of LCTOP funds requested: \$200,000

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.

4. Authorizes allocating to RABA \$233,014 in regional FY 2021/22 LCTOP funds for the following project:

Project Name: Zero Emission Van Modernization

Amount of LCTOP funds requested: \$233,014

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 28th day of April 2022, by the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency.

Baron Browning, Chair
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency