

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 30, 2022
SUBJECT:	Approve Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Projects for Rural Transit Needs for Fiscal Year 2022/23 and Fiscal Year 2023/24
AGENDA ITEM:	5-7
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides funding for public transportation operations in the rural areas of Shasta County. The Shasta Region has been apportioned an estimated \$486,126 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 and \$495,848 for FY 2023/24 in the two-year program cycle. Project applications were due April 29, 2022. To receive federal rural transit funding, the SRTA Board of Directors needs to approve the projects and delegate authority to the executive director to complete necessary steps to receive federal rural transit funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve the FY 2022/23 FTA Section 5311 program of projects for rural transit operations provided by the county of Shasta (operated by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA));
2. Approve the FY 2023/24 FTA Section 5311 program of projects for rural transit operations provided by the county of Shasta (operated by RABA); and
3. Authorize the executive director to provide certifications, assurances, and other requested information to Caltrans and FTA, and make amendments as needed to receive full regional apportionment.

DISCUSSION:

On April 29, 2022, project applications were due to Caltrans to fund the ongoing operations of public transit in the rural areas of the Shasta Region. FTA 5311 funding is provided on a reimbursement basis to recipients that SRTA designates in the region's program of projects. The FTA 5311 grant program sustains fixed route public transit services in unincorporated portions of the RABA service area. The Shasta Region has been apportioned an estimated \$486,126 for FY 2022/23 and \$495,848 for FY 2023/24 in the current two-year program cycle, and staff recommends allocating the full amounts to county of Shasta for rural transit operating assistance.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose to fund alternative public transportation projects in the rural areas of Shasta County. This may result in a delay in receiving the funds dedicated to maintaining the operations of rural public transit in the county.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers the FTA Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program. The proposal was developed in coordination with Shasta County and DHCL to address the operating assistance needs of rural transit services in the region. Shasta County will coordinate with SRTA to administer the funds received through this program. *///The Technical Advisory Committee concurs with the staff recommendations.///*

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant application requests two years of rural transit operating assistance for Shasta County, for a total funding request of \$981,974. Caltrans is allowing Shasta County to use state toll credits as match, meaning that rural transit operations in unincorporated Shasta County will be 100% funded with FTA 5311 program funds and rider fares.

Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director