

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	April 28, 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:	5-9
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 \$486,126.00 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 and \$495,848.00 for FY 2023/24. Project applications are due April 29, 2022. The SRTA Board of Directors must now approve the projects and delegate authority to the executive director to complete the necessary steps to receive federal rural transit funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve the Fiscal Year 2022/23 FTA Section 5311 program of projects for transit operations in unincorporated areas of Shasta County provided by the county of Shasta (operated by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)) and SRTA (operated by Dignity Health Connected Living (DHCL));
2. Approve the Fiscal Year 2023/24 FTA Section 5311 program of projects for transit operations in unincorporated areas of Shasta County provided by the county of Shasta (operated by RABA) and SRTA (operated by DHCL); 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 are due to Caltrans to fund the ongoing operations of public transit in the rural areas of the Shasta Region. Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis to recipients that SRTA designates in the region's program of projects. This grant program sustains fixed route public transit services in unincorporated portions of the RABA service area.

The Shasta Region has been apportioned an estimated \$486,126.00 for FY 2022/23 and \$495,848.00 for FY 2023/24, and the county is not requesting the full amounts for either year. SRTA contracts with DHCL to operate ShastaConnect between the rural and urban areas of Shasta County Monday through Friday, providing residents, students, visitors, and more with

transportation options to get where they need to go in the region as well as connect with RABA, Greyhound, Amtrak, and other transportation services. SRTA's proposal includes approximately \$30,000 not requested by the county to be allocated to SRTA for ShastaConnect rural public transportation operating expenses in the intermountain region of Shasta County. This funding will reimburse DHCL for providing ShastaConnect services and ensure that transit operators serving unincorporated areas of Shasta County, like DHCL, are eligible to receive funding in future years.

Table 1 Summary of Proposed 5311 Program of Projects for the Shasta Region

FTA 5311	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
Estimated apportionment	\$ 486,126.00	\$ 495,848.00
County of Shasta (unincorporated portion of RABA service area)	\$ 465,038.00	\$ 487,290.00
SRTA for ShastaConnect Rural Transit	\$ 21,088.00	\$ 8,558.00

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose to fund alternative public transportation projects in the rural areas of Shasta County as well as determine an alternative funding split between the transit operators. This may result in a delay in receiving the funds dedicated to maintain the operations of public transit in the rural areas of Shasta County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers the FTA Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program. The proposal was developed in coordination with the county of Shasta and DHCL to address the operating assistance needs of rural transit services in the region. The county of Shasta and DHCL 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 funds for two years of rural transit operating assistance projects are: \$952,328 for the county of Shasta and \$29,646 for SRTA (currently contracting with DHCL).

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director