

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 25, 2025
SUBJECT:	Retroactively Approve Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Projects for Rural Transit Needs for Federal Fiscal Year 2025
AGENDA ITEM:	7-9
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides funding for public transportation in the rural areas of Shasta County. The Shasta Region has been apportioned \$550,635 for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued a call for projects on May 7, 2025, with project applications due June 10, 2025. For regional applicants 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 administrative next steps. Staff then provides the necessary Program of Projects and certifications to Caltrans that the projects are consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan and Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Retroactively approve the FFY 2025 FTA Section 5311 program of projects for rural transit operations provided by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) totaling \$550,635; and
2. 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:

FTA 5311 funding is provided on a reimbursement basis to recipients that SRTA designates in the region's program of projects. Historically, FTA 5311 grant funds have sustained fixed-route public transit services in unincorporated portions of the county. The Shasta Region has been apportioned \$550,635 for FFY 2025.

Caltrans issued a call for projects on May 7, 2025, and project applications were due to Caltrans on June 10, 2025, to fund the ongoing operations of public transit in the rural areas of the Shasta Region. RABA submitted an application requesting the full amount toward rural operating services. Staff reviewed the application and found it consistent with SRTA's Regional Transportation Plan and Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

Staff recommends allocating the full FTA 5311 apportionment for FFY 2025 to RABA for transit operating assistance in areas outside of the Redding Urbanized Area (map attached of US Census designated area). If approved, SRTA will finalize the draft application documents that RABA

submitted with their application for non-urban operating assistance using either state toll credits (if allowable) or Transportation Development Act (TDA) State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for the required local match (44.47 percent). It is estimated the FFY 2025 funds will cover all applicable fixed-route, complimentary paratransit, RABA Runabout, and ShastaConnect operating expenses in the non-urban portions of the RABA service area to be expended sometime during a two-year performance period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose to fund alternative public transportation projects in the rural areas of Shasta County. This would result in delays in receiving the funds dedicated to maintaining the operations of public transit in the rural areas of Shasta County while waiting for Caltrans to review additional projects. RABA would need to update their transit budget.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers the FTA Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program. The staff recommendation was developed in coordination with RABA to address the operating assistance needs of rural transit services in the region. RABA will coordinate with SRTA to administer the funds received through this program. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on June 11, 2025, to review and discuss the FTA 5311 apportionment and concurs with staff recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

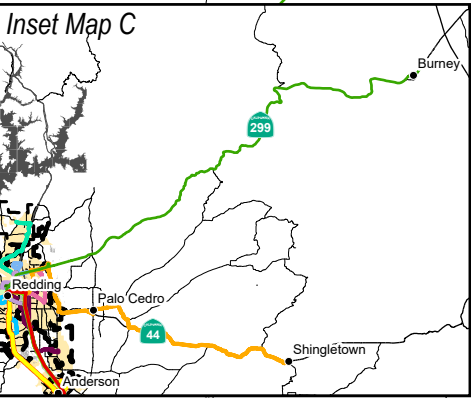
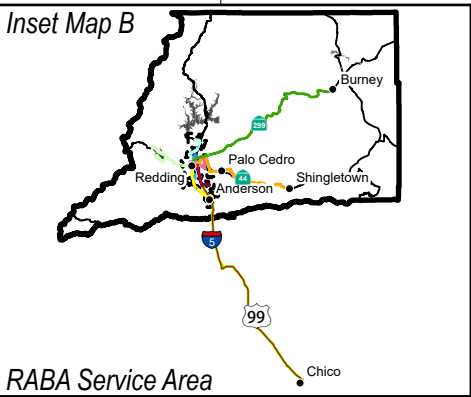
RABA's grant application requests one year of rural transit operating assistance totaling \$550,635 in FTA 5311 funds to be expended during a two-year performance period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027. If state toll credits are not approved by Caltrans, RABA will use STA funds for the required 44.47 percent local match. Use of state toll credits frees up STA funds for other transit needs and TDA Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for streets and roads needs as long as there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.



Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment: RABA Service Area – Shasta County Urban Region

**RABA Service Area
Shasta County Urban Region**



**CITY OF
SHASTA LAKE**

REDDING

ANDERSON

Palo Cedro

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| City Limit | Route 11 |
| Paratransit Area | Route 14 |
| Urban Area | Route 15 |
| Route | Route 17 |
| Route 1 | Route 19 |
| Route 3 | Route 44X |
| Route 4 | Route 299X |
| Route 7 | 99X to Chico |
| Route 9 to Anderson | 99X to Redding |
| Route 9 to Redding | |

