

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	December 13, 2016
SUBJECT:	Accept Shasta Intercity Transportation to Sacramento and the Bay Area Study Final Report
AGENDA ITEM:	9
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The *Shasta Intercity Transportation to Sacramento and the Bay Area Study* was recently completed. Findings will be referenced when applying for planning, capital, and operational grant funding needed to implement the service.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors accept the *Shasta Intercity Transportation to Sacramento and the Bay Area Study* final report (attached).

DISCUSSION:

Since 2014, SRTA and city of Redding staff have been discussing options for expanding intercity transportation to airports and passenger rail facilities in Sacramento and the Bay Area. The concept was initiated to complement interregional travel options and to provide better connections to state, national, and international destinations.

SRTA was successful in obtaining a \$30,000 mini-grant through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program to investigate market demand and operational feasibility of the service. This effort, called the *Shasta Intercity Transportation to Sacramento and the Bay Area Study*, was recently completed by The Center for Business and Policy Research at the University of the Pacific. Express bus service from Redding to downtown Sacramento along the I-5 corridor is recommended in the study, with feeder routes from the rural counties in the North State. The attached final report provides an inventory of existing services along the corridor; a market demand assessment; a cursory service design; and a list of next steps required for implementation.

Early data and findings from the study were used in a Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant application for \$19.5 million. The application was not successful; however, the California State Transportation Agency and Caltrans's Division of Rail and Mass Transportation wish to partner on the concept and encouraged SRTA to apply for additional state planning funds to advance the project in preparation for capital funding. A Sustainable Transportation Planning

Strategic Partnership grant application was submitted to Caltrans in November, requesting \$223,203 for a detailed business plan that could be used to secure capital and operational funding. Grant award announcements are anticipated in the spring of 2017, with projects starting July.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may defer acceptance of the final report to request additional information from staff.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The FTA grant for the study was administered by Caltrans. During the project, potential transportation and transit agency partners from across the North State and the Sacramento and Bay Area were consulted. Partners reviewed and commented on draft documents; coordinated potential route schedules; spoke in support of the project to their boards and to the SRTA board of directors; and wrote letters of support for grant applications. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FINANCING:

The study is funded by a \$30,000 FTA Section 5311(f) grant, which covered all consultant costs and a portion of SRTA's staff time. Acceptance of the final report has no direct fiscal impact to the agency; however, the report will be instrumental when pursuing future state and federal funding for planning, capital, and operating costs.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment:

Draft *Shasta Intercity Transportation to Sacramento and the Bay Area Study* Available Online at:
<http://sрта.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3280>