

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 28, 2021
SUBJECT:	Accept a Caltrans Strategic Partnership Grant Award of \$291,819 for the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan
AGENDA ITEM:	9
STAFF CONTACT:	Eamon Johnston, Assistant Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

SRTA has been awarded a Caltrans Strategic Partnership Grant Award of \$291,819 to help fund the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan. The plan will study improved bus connections to nearby rail hubs and evaluate the feasibility of future daytime passenger rail service. A resolution accepting the award is necessary to receive the funds and a Notice to Proceed from Caltrans.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors approve Resolution 21-12 (Attachment A) to accept the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award of \$291,819 for the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan and direct staff to begin procurement of consultant services.

DISCUSSION:

In December 2020, the SRTA Board of Directors authorized the submission of a grant through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program, and the related agenda item is included in Attachment B. In February 2021, SRTA applied for a Strategic Partnership grant application through the program for \$291,819 to fund the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan; the grant application is included in Attachment C. The plan is focused on providing improved transportation options between Redding and Greater Sacramento and/or the Bay Area; the Shasta Region is only a few hours away but essentially unreachable for people who do not have access to a car and those who prefer to travel by bus or train.

Key tasks and deliverables from the grant application scope of work include:

- Developing strategies for improving bus service to nearby rail hubs, including Sacramento and Oroville/Chico;
- Assessing existing and underutilized rail infrastructure;
- Evaluating the timing of potential future daytime passenger rail to Redding and practical steps needed for this to occur; and
- Evaluating a new potential governance structure to guide planning and operation of intercity transportation services, including representation from agencies across the greater North State area.

In June 2021, SRTA was notified of an award of \$291,819 by Caltrans. A board resolution accepting the grant is necessary before the award may be finalized. SRTA staff will work with Caltrans to fulfil the additional conditions of grant acceptance mentioned in the award letter (Attachment D). Once a Notice to Proceed is received from Caltrans, SRTA staff will begin the process to procure a consultant to assist with the project. A recommendation to award a consultant contract will be expected at the October board meeting. Work on the project is expected to be completed by December 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may suggest items to include in the scope of work of the request for proposals as well as request additional information.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers the grant program. The grant will require coordination with the state, existing public transportation providers in the North State, and passenger rail service providers in Northern California, with a focus on the Interstate 5 corridor between Redding and Sacramento. An advisory committee of regional stakeholders will be established as part of the project. The Technical Advisory Committee concurs with the staff recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The project award budget is \$329,627, which includes grant funds totaling \$291,819 and an 11.47% local match of \$37,808. In anticipation of a possible grant award, Work Element 707.10 was created in the FY 2021/22 Overall Work Program.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments:

- A. Resolution 21-12: Accept a FY 2021/22 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Award of \$291,819 for the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan
- B. SRTA Board of Directors [Agenda Item 11](#): Consider Development of an Intercity Passenger Rail Study (Public Comment) and Receive Update on Salmon Runner Intercity Bus Service (December 15, 2020)
- C. North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan [grant application](#) on the SRTA website
- D. Award notification letter from Caltrans

RESOLUTION



RESOLUTION NUMBER:	21-12
SUBJECT:	Accept a Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program – Strategic Partnership Transit Award of \$291,819 for the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan

WHEREAS, the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the Shasta Region and is responsible to carry out the transportation planning and programming process; and

WHEREAS, SRTA applied for, and has been awarded, a grant of \$291,819 under the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program – Strategic Partnership Transit of \$291,819 to help fund the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency:

1. Accepts the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program – Strategic Partnership Transit Award of \$291,819 to help fund the North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan; and
2. Authorizes the executive director to provide any other information, and certifications and assurances as needed to Caltrans for the project to proceed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of June 2021, by the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency.

Greg Watkins, Chair
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
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06/22/21

On behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Division of Transportation Planning, we are pleased to congratulate you on your Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant award.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program					
Grant Category	Strategic Partnerships (Transit) - Federal Transit Administration, 5304				
Project Title	North State Intercity Bus to Rail Plan				
Grantee/Agency	Shasta Regional Transportation Agency				
Executive Director	Dan Little				
Grantee/Agency Contact	Eamon Johnston				
Sub-Recipient(s)	No Sub-Recipient				
Caltrans District Contact(s)	Kathy Grah				
Caltrans District Contact(s) E-mail	kathy.grah@dot.ca.gov				
Grant Award	Local Match (Cash)	Local Match (In-Kind)	Total Local Match	% Local Match	Total Project Cost
\$291,819	\$37,808	\$0	\$37,808	11.47%	\$329,627
Conditions of Award Due to Caltrans		Grant Expiration Date		Final Invoice Due	
10/01/21		06/30/24		08/30/24	
* The final contractually agreed upon Local Match and Fund Source are located on the Grant Application Cover Sheet and Project Cost and Schedule. Any change in Local Match that increases/decreases the Total Project Cost must be approved by Caltrans and may require a Formal Amendment. Each invoice must include the contractual/agreed upon local match % - any deviation to this amount requires an approved Tapered Local Match Amendment prior to invoice submittal. Any change to the Local Match Fund Source requires prior Caltrans approval and an Administrative Amendment.					

Next Steps

1. The Caltrans District Grant Manager will schedule a Conditional Award Teleconference, with your agency soon.
 - A list of conditions and project revisions necessary to accept grant funding will be provided at this meeting as well as a follow-up email outlining the discussion.
2. The required conditions must be submitted to the Caltrans District Grant Manager no later than the date listed in the table above.
 - Failure to satisfy these conditions will result in the forfeiture of grant funds.
3. The Caltrans District Grant Manager will review and approve all items required to fulfill the Conditions of Grant Acceptance outlined in the teleconference and follow-up email.
4. Once the required conditions are met and agreements in place, the Caltrans District Grant Manager will:
 - Send a Notice to Proceed letter (for MPO/RTPAs, this will happen after the OWP/OWPA formal amendment is processed). **Grant work cannot begin until the Notice to Proceed letter is received by your agency.**
 - Coordinate and schedule a grant kick-off meeting with your agency.

If you have questions concerning your Conditional Grant Award, please reach out to your Caltrans District contact listed in the table above.

Sincerely,



ERIN THOMPSON
Chief, Office of Regional and Community Planning