

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	April 24, 2018
SUBJECT:	Approve and Roll-Over Fiscal Year 2017/18 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Funding for the Sunday Transit Demonstration Project in a Future Year
AGENDA ITEM:	11
STAFF CONTACT:	Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

Caltrans notified SRTA that \$231,865 in fiscal year (FY) 2017/18 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds are available to the Shasta Region for transit projects. To receive the funds, SRTA must designate the funds toward a project that meets LCTOP eligibility criteria and is approved by the SRTA Board of Directors and Caltrans. Staff recommends that FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds be rolled-over for use in FY 2018/19 toward the Sunday Transit Demonstration Project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors adopt Resolution #18-07, approving the roll-over of FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds to FY 2018/19 for the Sunday Transit Demonstration Project and authorizing the Executive Director to execute certifications and assurances and authorized agent forms for the LCTOP application, including any amendments as may be necessary.

DISCUSSION:

LCTOP provides public transportation funding for new transit services that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve mobility. Projects that serve disadvantaged or low-income communities receive priority. To receive funding, projects must meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Support new or expanded bus or rail services, water-borne transit, or intermodal transit facilities. This may include equipment acquisition, fueling and maintenance, and other costs to operate those new services or facilities.
2. Operational expenditures that increase transit mode share.
3. Expenditures related to the purchase of zero-emission buses, including electric buses, and the installation of the necessary equipment and infrastructure to operate and support these zero-emission buses.

Regardless of the project type, LCTOP funds cannot supplant existing services or funding and must result in measurable reductions in GHG emissions.

To receive the region's LCTOP allocation, funds must be designated to a project and an application submitted to Caltrans. The Sunday Transit Demonstration Project is recommended based on LCTOP eligibility, GHG emissions reduction potential, and documented unmet transit needs.

Staff is conducting sketch planning exercises to evaluate the potential performance of several Sunday transit service alternatives. Results of this effort will be presented for consideration by the board of directors at the June meeting. Sunday transit service is anticipated to start around July 1, 2019, with board

of directors' approval. To cover transit operations, LCTOP funds would be used similar to RABA's Crosstown Express service, by providing "Free Ride" days.

An application was submitted by the March 30, 2018, deadline requesting the roll-over of FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds to FY 2018/19 for the Sunday Transit Demonstration Project. Completion of the application requires a resolution by the SRTA Board of Directors. The board of directors may, at a later date, reprioritize FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds to another eligible project through a Corrective Action Plan. At this time, it is recommended that the board of directors adopt the attached resolution so that Caltrans may allocate the funds to SRTA for use in FY 2018/19.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may allocate FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds to a different project at a future meeting, so long as the project meets the project eligibility criteria.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans and the California Air Resources Board administer the LCTOP. RABA staff submitted a contribution letter to transfer their \$12,745 LCTOP allocation to SRTA as part of the FY 2017/18 allocation request. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, no funding source has been designated for the Sunday Transit Demonstration Project. The \$231,865 in FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds are recommended as initial startup funding for this project. Additional future LCTOP allocations could be applied toward the project. In the near-term, this would enable Transit Development Act (TDA) funds to remain allocated to existing transit needs with unused funds being applied toward streets and roads projects. Should transit services on Sundays be successful, the board of directors would need to consider using TDA or other funds to replace LCTOP in the future.



Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment: Resolution 18-07



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER:	18-07
SUBJECT:	Authorization for the Execution of the Certifications and Assurances and Authorized Agent Forms for the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program for the following Project: Sunday Transit Service Demonstration Project – for \$231,865

WHEREAS, the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) is an eligible project sponsor and may receive state funding from the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) for transit projects; and

WHEREAS, the statutes related to state-funded transit projects require a local or regional implementing agency to abide by various regulations; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 862 (2014) named the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as the administrative agency for the LCTOP; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has developed guidelines for the purpose of administering and distributing LCTOP funds to eligible project sponsors; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors wishes to delegate authorization to execute the fiscal year 2017/18 LCTOP certifications, assurances and authorized agent forms and any amendments thereto to the executive director; and

WHEREAS, the SRTA Board of Directors wishes to implement the LCTOP project listed above.

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

1. Agrees to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in the Certification and Assurances and the Authorized Agent documents and applicable statutes, regulations and guidelines for LCTOP funded transit projects;
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to execute all required documents of the LCTOP program and any amendments thereto with Caltrans; and
3. Authorizes submittal of the following project nomination and allocation request to Caltrans in FY 2017/18 LCTOP funds:

Project Name: Sunday Transit Demonstration Project

Amount of LCTOP funds requested: \$231,865

Short description of project: Provide “free ride” days.

Contributing Sponsor(s): Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA)

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of April, 2018, by the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency.

Susie Baugh, Chair

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency