

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	April 25, 2017
SUBJECT:	Authorize Request for Proposals for the North State Express Connect Business Plan For Intercity Bus Service Between Redding and Sacramento
AGENDA ITEM:	#13
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

SRTA anticipates a \$223,203 award through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program to develop a business plan for the *North State Express Connect* – a conceptual intercity bus network with a backbone service along I-5 between Redding and Sacramento and feeder services linking North State counties. A request for proposals (RFP) for consultant services to complete the business plan has been prepared for distribution, pending the grant award announcement (April 2017). Results will be used to attract capital and operating grant funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors authorize the executive director to issue an RFP for the *North State Express Connect Business Plan* (attached), pending award of the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant.

DISCUSSION:

The North State needs a plan to improve intercity access to large urban markets in Sacramento and beyond. To address this issue, SRTA – in coordination with the North State Super Region – sought capital funding for busses and associated infrastructure (April 2016) and studied the feasibility of enhanced intercity bus service (December 2016). It is envisioned that the intercity service would provide Shasta, Modoc, Siskiyou, Lassen, Butte, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake and Colusa counties access to Sacramento's airport, train station and downtown.

In November 2016, SRTA submitted a grant application to the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program entitled the *North State Express Connect Business Plan*. In anticipation of a grant award this month (April 2017), the attached Preliminary Draft RFP for consultant services is provided for consideration by the board of directors.

Results of the business plan will be instrumental when pursuing future state and federal funding for capital and operating costs. The *North State Express Connect* has generated interest from the California State Transportation Agency and the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) with whom SRTA staff have met several times in 2017. The SJJPA manages the Amtrak thruway bus service between Redding, Sacramento, and Stockton. A possible joint pilot project is under discussion for a local entity – such as SRTA – to receive a portion of the Amtrak thruway bus service funding for the *North State Express Connect*.

If the grant is successful and the board approves distribution of the attached RFP, staff will present a *North State Express Connect Business Plan* consultant services agreement at the June board meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may modify the RFP or defer the item to the June meeting to request additional information.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers Sustainable Transportation Planning Program grants. During the project, SRTA will work with potential transportation and transit agency partners from across the North State and Sacramento. \\The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.\\

FINANCING:

Consultant costs (up to \$223,203) will be funded through the grant. Planning, Programing and Monitoring funds will cover the 20% required local (non-federal) match (\$67,677) of the total project cost (\$338,375). SRTA will over match 14.04% (\$47,495) with Federal Metropolitan Planning (PL) or Federal Transit Agency 5303 Funds for staff time and a majority of a “big data” purchase for a total agency contribution of 34.04% (\$115,172).

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments:

Preliminary Draft RFP for the *North State Express Connect Business Plan* (Attachment not available for TAC)