

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	April 26, 2016
SUBJECT:	Approve Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Projects
AGENDA ITEM:	11
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 program funds public transportation in rural areas. SRTA must select projects and funding amounts using the region's apportionment. Staff recommends approving FTA Section 5311 for rural transit operations provided by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) in the county of Shasta.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve FTA Section 5311 program of projects for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 for rural transit operations provided by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA); and
2. Authorize the executive director to provide certifications, assurances, and other requested information to Caltrans and FTA.

DISCUSSION

FTA Section 5311 provides reimbursement for public transportation and related uses in rural areas. The region's apportionment for 2016 is \$317,786. Projects receiving Section 5311 funds must be approved by the SRTA Board of Directors. In February, SRTA solicited proposals from public transit providers in the region. Two proposals were received and a third is recommended.

1. Golden Umbrella submitted a proposal for \$104,190 for a one-year project period to reimburse Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers for transportation expenses incurred during their service. The proposed project is ineligible under Section 5311 and therefore not recommended for funding.

Staff recommends that Golden Umbrella apply for the FTA Section 5310 program, which provides funding for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Section 5310 specifically calls out volunteer driver programs and mileage reimbursement as eligible activities. Also, Section 5310 is not restricted to public transportation in rural areas. SRTA anticipates the next Section 5310 call for projects to be in late 2016 and can provide assistance to Golden Umbrella in applying for funding.

2. The county of Shasta submitted a proposal for \$249,872 to reimburse fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 expenses for rural transit operations provided by RABA. Last year, the county of Shasta was awarded \$176,850 from the competitive FTA Section 5311(f) program to operate the Burney Express transit service. Combined, the requested 5311 reimbursement and the 5311(f) award will provide full funding for county transit needs for FY 2015/16. Staff recommends funding this proposal.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose not to approve the eligible project submitted for approval. All funds would roll over to next year.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans will administer the funds directly to the county of Shasta and RABA. County of Shasta and RABA staff routinely coordinates with SRTA to identify and fund rural transit needs. The Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) concurs with the staff recommendation. *///The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation///.*

FINANCING:

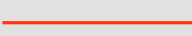
The project would not have a direct fiscal impact to SRTA. The proposed action combined with the prior 5311(f) award will provide full funding for county transit needs for FY 2015/16. The remaining Section 5311 regional apportionment of \$67,914 would roll over to next year.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Map: Rural Areas in Shasta County – Near Cities

RURAL AREAS IN SHASTA COUNTY - NEAR CITIES

U.S. Census (2010)

-  RURAL AREAS
-  URBAN AREAS
-  CITY BOUNDARY
-  BUS ROUTES

0 1 2 Miles

