

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	4/28/2015
SUBJECT:	Adopt Resolution Authorizing Submittal of 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program Grant Application(s)
AGENDA ITEM:	12
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Associate Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program provides funding for public transportation and planning to connect rural areas to urbanized areas. Applications must be authorized by Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA). Two applications are recommended for authorization: operational funding for Burney express and an "airporter" feasibility study.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Adopt Resolution 15-05 authorizing the county of Shasta to submit a 2015 FTA Section 5311(f) application to operate the Burney Express transit service; and
2. Adopt Resolution 15-06 authorizing SRTA to submit a 2015 FTA Section 5311(f) application to study an intercity bus service to Sacramento, the Sacramento International Airport, and to possibly connect to major transit facilities in the Bay Area.

DISCUSSION:

FTA Section 5311(f) provides funding for intercity public transit in the non-urbanized areas of the state. The following two applications are recommended for the 2015 grant cycle:

- At SRTA's request, the county of Shasta completed an application in the amount of \$176,850 to operate Burney Express service.
- SRTA completed an application in the amount of \$30,000 for an "airporter" feasibility study and implementation plan.

With regard to SRTA's proposed application, the city of Redding and SRTA have been discussing an enhanced intercity public transit option to airports and passenger rail facilities in Sacramento and the Bay Area. In addition to improving mobility for the general public, reliable interregional connections enable the region's business community to participate in state, national, and international markets.

Existing interregional connections – and their respective limitations – include:

- Air service occurs twice daily to San Francisco International Airport. Weather and fog impact the services reliability, and the single destination limits travel options.
- Passenger rail service occurs once daily northbound (3:14 A.M.) and once daily southbound (2:21 A.M.). Early morning hours, poor on-time service, and lack of station services discourage ridership.

- Greyhound bus service occurs four times daily, northbound and southbound. Frequent stops, indirect routes, and bus transfers make it inconvenient.
- First Class Shuttle service occurs three to four times on weekdays and twice on weekends for Sacramento International Airport passengers. Round trip cost of \$140 per passenger can be costly for parties two or more.

The “airporter” feasibility study and implementation plan would include an up-to-date analysis of service costs and passenger fares; current and projected market demand; the potential for non-rail passengers on Amtrak busses; coordination of passenger rail and air-travel connections; funding sources; and recommended next steps.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose not to adopt one or both of the supporting resolutions. This would disqualify the application(s).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers the FTA Section 5311(f) program for California. County of Shasta staff coordinates with SRTA to identify and fund rural transit needs. City of Redding staff, including the Redding Municipal Airport Manager, introduced the idea of an “airporter” service and has coordinated with SRTA on developing the concept. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) concurs with the staff recommendation.

FINANCING:

The county of Shasta project would have no direct fiscal impact to SRTA. The “airporter” feasibility study and implementation plan would require staff time to administer the grant; procure a consultant; manage the project; and participate in research. A portion of the grant budget will be dedicated to SRTA staff time for this purpose.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Resolution 15-05: Authorize County of Shasta’s Federal Transit Administration
Section 5311(f) Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2015
Resolution 15-06: Authorize Shasta Regional Transportation Agency’s Federal Transit
Administration Section 5311(f) Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2015

RESOLUTION



RESOLUTION NUMBER:	15-05
SUBJECT:	Authorize County of Shasta's Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2015

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation provides grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for operating and capital assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C9040.1G); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer FTA Section 5311(f) grants in California; and

WHEREAS, the county of Shasta, a public governmental authority, desires to apply for said financial assistance to operate express service to the community of Burney; and

WHEREAS, the county of Shasta has coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies); and

WHEREAS, Caltrans requires a resolution of the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) authorizing submittal of the application before it can be considered for funding; and

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

1. Authorizes the county of Shasta to submit a 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Operating Assistance application to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for operating express transit service to Burney; and
2. Authorizes the executive director to provide any other information and assurances as needed to Caltrans for the application to proceed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2015, by the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency.

Missy McArthur, Chair
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency

RESOLUTION



RESOLUTION NUMBER:	15-06
SUBJECT:	Authorize Shasta Regional Transportation Agency's Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2015

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation provides grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for operating and capital assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C9040.1G); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer FTA Section 5311(f) grants in California; and

WHEREAS, the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA), a public governmental authority, desires to apply for said financial assistance to develop a feasibility study for an "airporter" service; and

WHEREAS, SRTA has coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies); and

WHEREAS, Caltrans requires a resolution of the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) authorizing submittal of the application before it can be considered for funding; and

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

1. Authorizes SRTA to submit a 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Capital Assistance application to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for a planning study; and
2. Authorizes the executive director to provide any other information and assurances as needed to Caltrans for the application to proceed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2015, by the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency.

Missy McArthur, Chair
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency