

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 27, 2017
SUBJECT:	Approve Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Projects for Rural Transit Needs for Fiscal Years 2016/17 and 2017/18
AGENDA ITEM:	5-7
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 program provides funding for rural public transportation outside of the Redding urbanized Area. SRTA must select projects and approve funding amounts using the region's apportionments. Staff recommends approving FTA Section 5311 for rural transit operations provided by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) in the county of Shasta for fiscal years (FY) 2016/17 and 2017/18.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve the FTA Section 5311 program of projects for FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18 for rural transit operations provided by 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 (map attached). Regions receive annual apportionments that must be claimed. Caltrans administers the program and issued a two-year call for projects. An estimated \$717,785 is available to rural areas of the Shasta region, which includes \$67,914 in 2016 carryover, \$320,970 of 2017 apportionment, and \$328,301 of 2018 estimated apportionment. Projects receiving Section 5311 funds must be approved by the SRTA Board of Directors. In May, SRTA solicited proposals from public transit providers in the region. The following two proposals were received:

1. The county of Shasta submitted a proposal for \$342,264 to reimburse FY 2016/17 expenses for rural transit operations provided by RABA. Combined with prior year FTA Section 5311(f) award and State Transit Assistance (STA) match, the requested 5311 reimbursement will provide full funding for county transit operating needs for FY 2016/17. Staff recommends funding this proposal.

2. The county of Shasta submitted a second proposal for \$374,921 to reimburse estimated FY 2017/18 expenses for rural transit operations provided by RABA. The request is higher because of reductions in the 5311(f) program. Combined, the requested 5311 reimbursement; the 5311(f) award and STA match described in agenda item 5-8; and an additional \$38,061 in STA funds will provide full funding for the estimated county transit operating needs for FY 2017/18. Staff recommends funding this proposal.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose not to approve the projects submitted for approval. The 2016 carryover and 2017 apportionment would roll over to next year.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans will administer the funds directly to the county of Shasta. County of Shasta and RABA staff routinely coordinate with SRTA to identify and fund rural transit needs. **///The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends approval of the staff recommendation.///**

FINANCING:

The proposed action fully funds county transit needs for FY's 2016/17 and 2017/18. This strategy efficiently funds rural transit needs first with the use of competitive 5311(f) funds; next with federally apportioned 5311 rural transit funds; and with STA funds. This maximizes county STA spillover funds to benefit the three cities and the Rural BLAST (Bike Lanes and Sidewalks to Transit) program. Furthermore, this enables all county Local Transportation Funds to be used for streets and roads because all transit obligations are met with other fund sources.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Rural Areas in Shasta County – Near Cities

RURAL AREAS IN SHASTA COUNTY - NEAR CITIES

