

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	6/30/2015
SUBJECT:	Conduct a Public Hearing for 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program Grant Application
AGENDA ITEM:	9
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, Associate Transportation Planner

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors hold a public hearing on SRTA's 2015 Federal Transit Administration Section (FTA) 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program grant application for \$30,000 to study the feasibility of an 'airporter' service.

DISCUSSION:

This is a continuation of agenda item 11 from the April 28, 2015, SRTA Board of Directors meeting. At the April meeting, the board of directors authorized the submittal of an FTA Section 5311(f) grant application for funding to study public transportation services to Sacramento, the Sacramento International Airport, and possibly to connect to major ground transit and airport facilities in the Bay Area.

A public hearing is required to receive comments regarding the economic, social, and environmental effects of the project.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment: Staff report from the April 28, 2015, SRTA Board of Directors meeting

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:	11
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" planning 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 public transportation services to Sacramento, the Sacramento International Airport, and to possibly connect to major ground transit and airport facilities in the Bay Area.

DISCUSSION:

FTA Section 5311(f) provides funding for intercity public transit from 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 the Burney Express service.
- An SRTA application for \$30,000 to study the feasibility of an 'airporter' service.

The city of Redding and SRTA have been discussing enhanced intercity transportation options to airports and passenger rail facilities in Sacramento and the Bay Area. In addition to improving mobility for the general public, reliable connections to state, national, and international markets help grow the local economy.

Existing interregional connections – and their respective limitations – include:

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

- Amtrak Thruway Bus service to Sacramento and Stockton routinely transports passengers, but tickets are only available as part of a rail trip.
- Greyhound bus service occurs four times daily, northbound and southbound. Frequent stops, indirect routes, and bus transfers limit ridership.
- 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 prohibitive.

The 'airporter' study and action plan would: update information on existing services, costs and passenger fares; assess current and projected market demand; assess the potential for non-rail passengers on Amtrak buses; assess the potential for ride-sharing services; assess coordination of passenger rail and air-travel connections; assess possible new bus service or expansion of existing airporter service provided by 1st Class Shuttle; evaluate possible 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" study and action plan would require staff time to manage the project, which could be charged to the grant.



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