

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 24, 2026
SUBJECT:	Approve Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Projects for Rural Transit Needs for Federal Fiscal Year 2026
AGENDA ITEM:	7-9
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Pollom, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides funding for public transportation in the rural areas of Shasta County. The Shasta Region has been apportioned \$566,379 for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026. For regional applicants to receive federal rural transit funding, the SRTA Board of Directors needs to approve the projects and delegate authority to the executive director to complete administrative next steps. Staff then provides the necessary Program of Projects and certifications to Caltrans that the projects are consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan and Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve the FFY 2026 FTA Section 5311 program of projects for rural transit operations provided by the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA) totaling \$566,379; and
2. Authorize the executive director to provide certifications, assurances, and other requested information to Caltrans and FTA, and make amendments as needed to receive the full regional apportionment.

DISCUSSION:

FTA 5311 funding is provided on a reimbursement basis to recipients that SRTA designates in the region's program of projects. Historically, FTA 5311 grant funds have sustained fixed-route public transit services in unincorporated portions of the county. The Shasta Region has been apportioned \$566,379 for FFY 2026.

Caltrans issued a call for projects on May 10, 2026, and project applications are due to Caltrans on August 10, 2026, to fund ongoing public transit operations in the rural areas of the Shasta Region. RABA informed SRTA that they will be applying for the full amount for rural operating services. Staff will review RABA's application for consistency with SRTA's Regional Transportation Plan and Federal Transportation Improvement Program and provide other support to RABA for a successful application.

Staff recommends approving the full FTA 5311 apportionment for FFY 2026 to RABA for transit operating assistance in areas outside of the Redding Urbanized Area (map attached of US Census designated area). It is estimated the FFY 2026 funds will cover a portion of all applicable fixed-route, complimentary paratransit, RABA Runabout, and ShastaConnect operating expenses in the

non-urban portions of the RABA service area during the two-year performance period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may choose to fund alternative public transportation projects in the rural areas of Shasta County. This would result in delays in receiving the funds dedicated to maintaining the operations of public transit in the rural areas of Shasta County while waiting for Caltrans to review additional projects. RABA would need to update their transit budget.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Caltrans administers the FTA Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas program. The staff recommendation was developed in coordination with RABA to address the operating assistance needs of rural transit services in the region. RABA will coordinate with SRTA to administer the funds received through this program. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on June 10, 2026, to discuss the FTA 5311 apportionment. Based on a verbal update from RABA and SRTA staff, TAC concurred with the staff recommendation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

RABA's grant application requests one year of rural transit operating assistance totaling \$566,379 in FTA 5311 funds expected to be expended during a two-year performance period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. RABA will use a combination of State Transit Assistance (STA) and Senate Bill 125 (SB125) funds for the required 44.47 percent local match.



Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director

Attachment: RABA Service Area – Shasta County Urban Region

