SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Specialized Transit Contracts - Easy Lift and SMOOTH

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2019   **AGENDA ITEM:** 4E

STAFF CONTACT: Martha Gibbs

RECOMMENDATION:

Upon adoption of Resolution 19-27:

1.   Approve and authorize the Chair to sign an Agreement with Easy Lift, Inc. to provide para-transit services for 1.3% of the specialized transit funds in the South Coast estimated in an amount of $215,122 for the term of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; and

2.   Approve and authorize the Chair sign to an Agreement with Santa Maria Organization of Transportation Helpers (SMOOTH), Inc. to provide para-transit services for 35.127% of the 1% of specialized transit funds in the North County in an estimated amount of $56,674 for the term of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

SUMMARY:

The FY 2019-20 Measure A allocations include funding for the Specialized Transit for Elderly and Disabled program. Per the Measure A investment plan, transit operators and Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies are eligible recipients of this specialized transit funding, which is intended to reduce fares charged to the elderly and disabled by funding operating expenses of specialized services. Easy Lift is the sole specialized transit service provider on the South Coast, and SMOOTH is one of several providers of specialized transit service in North County which is allocated funds based on paratransit ridership and population. Both SMOOTH and Easy Lift are private non-profit corporations and must therefore enter into a contract with SBCAG in order to receive Measure A funding.

DISCUSSION:

The Measure A investment plan includes funding for Specialized Transit for the Elderly and Disabled under both the North and South sub region allocations. These funds are used to reduce fares for specialized transit services by subsidizing operating expenses for the operators providing these services. Eligible agencies include transit operators and Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSA's) designated by SBCAG.

In the South Coast, Easy Lift is the only provider of specialized transit services, whereas there are multiple providers in North County including SMAT, Santa Ynez Valley Transit, COLT, Guadalupe Transit and SMOOTH.

The Board adopts the annual distribution of Specialized Transit Program funds when it approves Measure A allocations. The North County allocation of 1% of Measure A funds for specialized transit is based on an equal weighting of population and ridership. However, due to the fact that the population served by SMOOTH overlaps multiple service areas, it receives a base allocation of $5,000 in lieu of using population figures. Therefore, based on ridership and the base allocation, SMOOTH receives 35.127% of the 1% North County allocation for specialized transit. The South Coast allocation of 1.3% of Measure A funds for specialized transit goes directly to Easy Lift as the sole provider of service.

The attached contracts detail the amount of funding allocated to each non- profit and specify the reporting requirements and purposes for which the funds may and may not be used. Specifically, both contractors must also agree that Measure A funds shall not be used to supplant existing sources of revenue.

The contract with Easy Lift stipulates that 1.3% of funds allocated for specialized transit services in the South Coast shall be provided in an amount estimated at $215,122 for FY 2019-20. SMOOTH shall receive $56,674 or 35.127% of the 1% of funds allocated to specialized transit operators and CTSAs in North County for FY 2019-20. Accordingly, payments shall be made in monthly installments pursuant to the allocation process specified in SBCAG Resolution No. 19-27 and Local Transportation Authority Ordinance Number 5.

The recommended action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

COMMITTEE REVIEW:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

> A. Specialized Transit Contract- Easy Lift (web posting only)
> B. Specialized Transit Contract – SMOOTH (web posting only)