

SBCTAC STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Federal Transit Administration 5310 Funding

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 7

STAFF CONTACT: Anne Jensen

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and recommend approval of project ranking for FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program) applications.

DISCUSSION:

Caltrans announced a call for projects on January 9, 2017 for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) program for federal Fiscal Years 2015, 2016 and 2017. The call for projects covers a three-year period.

The program provides local transit operators, private non-profit organizations, and in some circumstances private for-profit organizations with funding for capital, planning and operating assistance for public and private transportation services. Descriptions of program purpose and additional information are included in the program fact sheet (Attachment A).

The FTA incorporated the former 5317 (New Freedom) program into the 5310 program. Because of this change, there are now two subcategories of 5310: "Traditional" and "Expanded," the expanded subcategory of 5310 funds projects that used to be covered under New Freedom.

To be eligible for funding, projects must be derived from Santa Barbara County's coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan, *Transportation Connections*, as required by federal guidance. Grant applications must include a Coordinated Plan Certification.

Available Funding

Statewide, there is \$20 million in federal 5310 funds available for projects in small urban and rural areas (large urbanized areas have a separate application process). Applicants may apply for up to three years of funding per project with a maximum of \$1,000,000 this cycle. If applicants choose to apply under both the Expanded and Traditional subcategories, the total combined requests may not exceed the \$1,000,000 limit. Successful applicants from previous cycles may apply for additional funding for continuing projects.

Applicants can apply for 100% project funding using statewide toll credits as the designated non-federal match.

Regional Review of Applications

SBCAG, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Santa Barbara County, can conduct a regional review of applications before they are submitted to Caltrans for statewide scoring and approval. By the February 6th deadline, SBCAG received eleven applications from local transit operators and non-profit agencies. SBCAG utilized a regional scoring committee composed of SBCTAC members, stakeholders and SBCAG staff that met on February 13th to conduct the evaluation and scoring of traditional project applications submitted. Expanded applications are only scored by Caltrans, not SBCAG. The applications received are as follows:

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED				
Agency	Project Title	Category of 5310	Funding Requested (including Toll Credits)	Project Score (out of 100)
SMOOTH, Inc.	Capital purchase: 2 replacement buses	Traditional	\$146,000	93
Easy Lift Transportation	Capital purchase: 2 replacement minivans	Traditional	\$98,000	91
Easy Lift Transportation	Capital purchase: 5 replacement minivans	Traditional	\$245,000	86
Easy Lift Transportation	Capital purchase: 1 replacement bus	Traditional	\$63,000	86
Easy Lift Transportation	Capital purchase: 1 replacement minivan	Traditional	\$49,000	81
Easy Lift Transportation	Capital purchase: 1 replacement bus	Traditional	\$63,000	81
Life Steps Foundation, Inc. Santa Maria Wisdom Center	Capital purchase: 1 new minivan	Traditional	\$49,000	79
Life Steps Foundation, Inc. Santa Maria Wisdom Center	Equipment purchase: 4 GPS units	Traditional	\$2,000	78
Life Steps Foundation, Inc. Santa Maria Wisdom Center	Capital purchase: 3 replacement buses	Traditional	\$216,000	73
Life Steps Foundation, Inc. Santa Maria Wisdom Center	Operating Assistance (3 years)	Expanded	\$321,460	N/A
Community Partners in Caring	Operating Assistance (3 years)	Expanded	\$538,261	N/A

The applications were due on Caltrans' electronic grant management system by 5 PM on March 1st.

Call for Projects Schedule

SBCAG staff will present the SBCAG Board with the scores determined by the regional scoring committee for applications submitted at its March 16th meeting.

February 6, 2017 – 5310 Applications submitted to SBCAG by local transit operators, non-profit organizations and private operators

February 13 – Regional scoring committee to evaluate local applications

March 1 – 5310 applications due to Caltrans on electronic grant management system

March 8 – 5310 applications reviewed by SBCTAC

March 16 – Local FTA 5310 project scores adopted by SBCAG Board

April 2017 – Caltrans evaluate applications for statewide scoring

May 2017 – Tentative award announcement by Caltrans

August 2017 – Submission of FTA grant for approval

Success in previous funding cycles and competitiveness of current cycle

Generally, project sponsors from Santa Barbara County have been successful in obtaining funding from previous cycles. SBCAG will notify project sponsors, SBCTAC, TTAC and the SBCAG Board of the statewide scoring once available.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. Caltrans Call for Projects Fact Sheets

FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Federal Fiscal Years 2015, 2016 and 2017

PROGRAM FACT SHEET AND TIMELINE

Program Purpose:

Provide capital and operating assistance grants for projects that meet the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities: where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate; that exceed the requirements of the ADA; that improve access to fixed-route service; that provide alternatives to public transportation.

Funds Available FFY 2015 – 2017

- Approximately \$28 million in Federal funds for Large UZAs; and \$20 million for Small Urban and Rural.
- Projects are funded 100% with Federal funds upon FTA approval of Transportation Development Credits (Toll Credits)
- FTA mandates that at least 55% of funding is used for vehicle and other equipment projects.
- FTA mandates that no more than 45% of funding be used for Operating Assistance and Mobility Management projects.

NEW this grant cycle: Electronic Grants Management System (EGM). All projects will be administered online from application to project closeout. Less paper, more efficiency! EGM training will be in January 2017.

Eligible Applicants:

- * Private non-profit corporations; (Vehicles, Other Equipment, Mobility Management and Operating Assistance);
- * Public agencies where no private non-profits are readily available to provide the proposed service (Vehicles and Other Equipment);
- * Public agencies that have been approved by the State to coordinate services (Vehicles and Other Equipment);
- * Public agencies (Operating Assistance and Mobility Management);
- * An Operator of Public Transportation that receives a Section 5310 grant indirectly through a recipient (Operating Assistance and Mobility Management).

Eligible Equipment:

- * Accessible vans and buses;
- * Mobile radios and communication equipment;
- * Computer hardware and software

Vehicle Replacement Eligibility:

Vehicle(s) must be in active service. Active service is defined as a vehicle providing service throughout the agency's normal days and hours of operation. A replacement bus(s) or van must meet or exceed useful life at the time of application.

Service Expansion Eligibility: Applicants must be able to document that the proposed transportation service will provide:

- * Services to additional persons; or
- * Expand the service area or hours; or
- * Increase the number and/or frequency of trips.

Eligible Mobility Management Activities: Include, but are not limited to:

- * Planning, development, implementation of coordinated transportation services;
- * Travel training/trip planning.

Eligible Operating Activities: Include, but are not limited to:

- * Expansion of hours/service of paratransit service beyond the requirements of ADA;
- * Enhancement of services (same day; etc.)
- * New or expansion of Volunteer Driver Programs.

Funding Selection Process:

1. The Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) scores the applications using established evaluation criteria and completes a prioritized list for their region.
2. The State Review Committee reviews the RTPA scores, and compiles a statewide-prioritized list of projects based on available funding.
3. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) holds a public hearing to review and adopt the final list of small urban and rural projects.
4. Caltrans submits approved projects to the FTA.

Program Requirements: Once approved by FTA, successful applicants enter into a Standard Agreement with Caltrans. The agreement remains in effect until the project's useful life; or, for mobility management or operating assistance projects, the Standard Agreement duration. Grantees are responsible for the proper use, operating costs, and maintenance of all project equipment. Grantees must be prepared to comply with the requirements of Caltrans, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the regulations of the California Highway Patrol.

PROGRAM NOTE:

FTA Section 5310 vehicles are purchased by Caltrans using a State procurement process. Upon Caltrans approval, public agencies may follow their own local procurement process. However, the grantee must comply with state and federal procurement procedures when purchasing with local funds. Upon project completion, the grantee requests reimbursement from Caltrans for the Federal Share.

5310 PROGRAM TIMELINE

- November 2016** - RTPA/MPO Training scheduled for Redding, Sacramento, Riverside
 - 11/15 at SRTPA, 1255 East Street, Ste. 202, Redding, 9am – 11am
 - 11/16 at Caltrans HQ, 1120 N St., Sacramento, 3rd Flr Conf room from 9-12
 - 11/17 at Riverside County Transportation Commission, Conference Room A, 4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor, Riverside, CA from 10-12.
 - Begin Schedule for Public Hearings (Public Transit Only)
- January 9, 2017** - Call for Projects
 - Grant Application Workshops
- January 9-13, 2017** - EGM Training for Agencies/RTPAs and Application Workshops (Workshops tentatively scheduled for Redding, Sacramento, San Francisco, Visalia, San Bernardino/Riverside area).
- March 1, 2017** - Applications are closed on EGM for any additional entry. System locks applications at 5 PM on March 1. Before EGM closes RTPAs certify to Caltrans that all projects are included in their respective Coordinated Plans.
 - The RTPAs score the vehicles and equipment applications. SRC verifies the RTPAs' scores on the vehicle and equipment project applications. SRC scores the Operating Assistance and Mobility Management applications.
 - Complete Public Hearings (**must be completed by April 3, 2017**)
- April 3, 2017** - RTPAs verify regional prioritized lists on EGM to be submitted to FTA by Caltrans.
 - Grace period for completing Public Hearings ends.
- April 2017** - Regional scores are merged into a statewide-prioritized list of projects.
- May 2017** - Submit draft list to CTC for book item at the upcoming CTC meeting
 - CTC distributes public draft Program of Projects (POP)
- June 2017** - CTC conducts staff level conference for the SRC to hear any filed appeals
 - CTC conducts public hearing to adopt final POP
 - Final POP distributed publicly
 - Projects are programmed in the FTIP **prior to Submittal of Grant to FTA. Rural will be programmed by Caltrans into the FTIP**
- August 2017** - Schedule Successful Applicant Workshops, verify new agency information
 - After verification that all projects have been programmed, approved POP submitted to FTA for funding approval
 - After FTA's final approval, Standard Agreement process initiated
 - Procurement process begins.

*For additional information call our toll free number (1.888.472.6816) or visit our website at:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5310.html>*