

SBCTAC STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: FY 22-23 Unmet Transit Needs Process Direction

MEETING DATE: September 7, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 6

STAFF CONTACT: Jared Carvalho

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Recommend the SBCAG Board direct staff to carry out the FY 2022-23 Unmet Transit Needs Process assuming no associated Transportation Development Act funding will be allocated pursuant to Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act; or
- B. Recommend the SBCAG Board direct staff to carry out the FY 2022-23 Unmet Transit Needs Process with the assumption that a portion of associated Transportation Development Act funding may be allocated pursuant to Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act.

DISCUSSION:

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) provides funding for transit services in Santa Barbara County and throughout California. The Local Transportation Fund (LTF) portion of TDA allows claimants to use funding for non-transit purposes, typically for streets and roads, so long as certain conditions are met. Those conditions are analyzed consistent with PUC 99401.5 and 99401.6, and ultimately result in the SBCAG Board making a finding related to unmet transit needs and reasonableness to meet.

In each of the prior three Unmet Transit Needs cycles, the SBCAG Board directed staff to perform the Unmet Transit Needs process with the expectation that no associated TDA LTF funds would be used for purposes other than transit. Prior to beginning the 2023 cycle, staff would like SBCTAC's input on how the process should be undertaken and that will be presented to the SBCAG Board for its consideration. Under recommendation A, SBCAG carries out the process in an abbreviated manner. Recommendation B adds additional steps to the process for SBCAG.

PUC 99238.5 (Attachment A) is applicable regardless of whether the SBCAG Board would allow for TDA funds to be used for non-transit purposes or not. This requirement stipulates that at least one public hearing is conducted, and community members are provided an opportunity to supply comments related to transit. Assuming this is the only process undertaken for the 2022 cycle, the results would be memorialized in a memorandum (Recommendation A).

PUC 99401.5 and 99401.6 (Attachments B and C) describe the process that must be undertaken prior to funds being allocated for non-transit purposes. This, in addition to the PUC 99238.5 requirements, results in a report and the Board making a finding (Recommendation B).

Staff is seeking the committee's recommendation on the course of action to be undertaken for the 2023 process. SBCTAC's recommendation will be presented to the SBCAG Board during its September meeting.

Conversations with County of Santa Barbara staff have indicated the County is interested in SBCAG employing Recommendation B for the FY 22-23 process.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. PUC 99238.5
- B. PUC 99401.5
- C. PUC 99401.6