



DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2017

TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

FROM: JUDITH JOHNDUFF, PROGRAM ANALYST

SUBJECT: CALTRANS CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR FTA SECTION 5310 SMALL URBAN AND RURAL FUNDS FOR ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

RECOMMENDATION:

- Receive and file.

DISCUSSION:

Caltrans has announced a call for projects for Small Urban and Rural Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funds. In Ventura County, projects serving Camarillo, Simi Valley, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and the rural portions of the unincorporated areas are eligible to receive these funds. The program provides 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; or that provide alternatives to public transportation. Program details are shown below:

- Twenty million dollars (\$20 million) is available statewide for FY 2015-2017 through the Small Urban and Rural program.
- Projects will be 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.
- Applications are due to Caltrans by March 1, 2017.

VCTC is responsible for reviewing and scoring projects submitted through the 5310 Traditional Program which funds vehicle purchases. VCTC has been notified that two agencies intend to submit applications to Caltrans for Section 5310 funds to purchase vehicles. A brief description of both projects is provided below:

Gold Coast Transit /City of Camarillo Direct Service Pilot Project

The City of Camarillo is proposing to purchase one (1) vehicle to be used by Camarillo to support a 3-year pilot program to provide "Direct Service to/from City of Camarillo and Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) for Seniors and People with Disabilities" that would help to eliminate or reduce the need for transfers and improve travel times. Through this pilot program, the City of Camarillo would provide its residents direct round-trip service between Camarillo and the GCTD service

area (or a portion of). In addition, Gold Coast Transit District's GO ACCESS would provide direct round-trip service for its residents between the GCTD service area and Camarillo.

The direct trips would eliminate the need for transfers to take place between the cities, reducing trip time and potential delay. This service would be comparable to the direct service currently provided between the East County and Camarillo through the ECTA "Connect" service. This will improve scheduling of trips, and reduce need for long transfer wait times that currently occur when passengers transfer between the GCTD and Camarillo systems. Round trips originating in Camarillo would be supported by the one (1) new vehicle, expanding their fleet. Round trips originating in the GCTD service area would be supported by the GO ACCESS existing fleet. All vehicles to be used for this project are 100% ADA accessible. This need was identified in the VCTC Unmet Transit Needs and Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

Ventura Transit Service Inc.

This project would purchase ten (10) ADA accessible vans to provide beyond-ADA service for persons with disabilities. The proposed taxicab service is intended to respond at all hours of the day or night and to all locations in the service area, including to areas where there is no fixed route bus or paratransit service available, and with no requirement that an advanced day reservation be made. This proposal provides beyond-ADA service and allows individuals a level of freedom and flexibility for a portion of their transportation needs. Wheelchair service will be available at market-rate cab fares for all trip purposes and to all destinations in the service area, including employment and business purposes, as well as medical or recreation purposes, for residents and visitors alike. The service will also be available on trips paid for or subsidized by third parties. Additionally, the driver's ability to provide special assistance and service to smaller size groups and their parcels allows a level of service to be provided in special circumstances that is not currently available through other programs. The ten vehicles requested would specifically address the small urban and rural areas of Ventura County. The Coordinated Plan identified the need for expanded late evening and weekend services. It also suggested more cooperation with the private sector and the utilization of taxi services. This project meets those needs.

Agency	Project Description	Funding Requested
Gold Coast Transit	Purchase 1 ADA Accessible Vehicle	\$ 65,000
Ventura Transit Inc.	Purchase 10 ADA Accessible Vans	\$ 400,000

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will score the projects using the Scoring Criteria developed by Caltrans as shown in Attachment A. The scores will be presented to TRANSCOM at the March 9, 2017 meeting for review.