



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: June 3, 2025  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director - Transportation, 568-3064

**SUBJECT:** Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Fund Claim for FY  
2025-2026; All Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to file a \$457,718 claim of a total allocation of \$3,637,988 in Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Fund (TDA-LTF) funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG); and
- b) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(2) (continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making), and will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to authorize filing the County’s fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Fund (herein referred to as “LTF”) claim with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). In FY 2025-26, the County’s LTF allocation totals \$3,637,988, of which SBCAG will retain \$107,270 “off the top” for regional transportation purposes and the County will claim \$457,718 for bicycle and pedestrian projects, transit administration and planning

costs, and transit-serving infrastructure projects in unincorporated areas. The \$3,073,000 balance of LTF funds will be passed-through to transit operators as described in the Transit Programs subsection.

LTF dollars are derived from a ¼ cent of sales tax in each county. Each year, SBCAG is responsible for apportioning LTF funds within Santa Barbara County based on population. In south county, LTF funds go directly to the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD). In north county, local jurisdictions are responsible to “claim” their LTF apportionment with SBCAG. In order to claim LTF, the County must complete required documents including a Claim Form (Attachment B) and Resolution (Attachment A), pursuant to SBCAG’s TDA-LTF manual. The Resolution (Attachment A) designates the Public Works Director as the County’s authorized position to claim LTF for FY 2025-2026.

The TDA statute (Public Utilities Code Sections 99200 et seq.) establishes a priority order by which LTF funds are distributed. Allowed priorities include some of the following:

- Mandated distribution to SBCAG for regional transportation purposes;
- Mandated distribution to the County for bicycle and pedestrian projects;
- Discretionary funding SBCAG allocates to the County as a pass-through to transit operators in the region;
- Funding that goes to the County to administer transit programs; and
- Funding for roadway projects provided there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

### **Background:**

The Transportation Development Act provides funding for public transit operators, local cities and counties for transit operations and capital projects, local street and roadway projects, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. In order for an agency to use TDA-LTF funds for local streets and roadway projects or bicycle and pedestrian improvements, SBCAG must undertake an annual unmet transit needs process and determine there are no unmet transit needs or no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. On March 20, 2025, the SBCAG Board adopted a Resolution approving the 2025 Transit Needs Assessment and finding that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. This finding enables the County to claim funding under Article 8, Streets and Roads, in FY 25-26.

While the County does not directly operate any transit service in the north county, the County plays an important role as funding partner for each transit operator. In FY 25-26, the County will allocate \$3,073,000 (or 91%) of available funding through the LTF claims process to the cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc, Solvang, Guadalupe, the Santa Maria Organization of Transportation Helpers (SMOOTH), Community Partners in Caring (CPIC), and SBCAG to administer the Clean Air Express. These funds are combined with additional city funding to support activities of Santa Maria Regional Transit (SMRT) including SMRT Regional Route 40 (formerly Cuyama Transit), and the Guadalupe Flyer and Shuttle in the Santa Maria Valley, City of Lompoc Transit (COLT) in the Lompoc Valley, Santa Ynez Valley Transit (SYVT) in the Santa Ynez Valley, and senior and disabled transportation services in the north county.

In FY 25-26, the County will continue to partner with the City of Santa Maria to support SMRT Regional Route 30 (formerly the Breeze 100), which provides transit service connecting Santa Maria, Vandenberg Air Force Base and Lompoc. The County also partners with the cities of Santa Maria, Buellton, and Solvang to operate SMRT Route 20 (formerly the Breeze Route 200), which provides regional bus service connecting Santa Maria, Los Alamos and the Santa Ynez Valley. Additionally, the County partners with the cities of Lompoc, Buellton and Solvang to operate the Wine Country Express connecting Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley with regional bus service. Since FY 20-21, the County has also been the only LTF recipient to support Clean Air Express through the claims process. The County will allocate an additional \$337,000 to

SBCAG to support this regional service in FY 25-26, which amounts to approximately 10% of the service's operational budget.

In FY 25-26, the County will also allocate \$270,000 to Easy Lift to support CPIC's volunteer driver's program, which provides door-through-door services to seniors to help them access basic needs. The County's contribution amounts to approximately 30% of CPIC's operating budget in FY 25-26.

**Narrative:**

The County can claim up to \$3,637,988 in LTF for local and regional transit. As shown on the attached Claim Form, SBCAG will retain \$107,270 for regional transportation purposes as mandated in the Public Utilities Code Section 99200 et seq., the County will retain \$457,718 (\$155,439 for bicycle and pedestrian projects and \$152,279 for first-mile last-mile projects (streets and roads)), and the County will release \$3,073,000 of its total LTF apportionment to the jurisdictions below to continue operating transit services in north county:

| Total LTF Distribution                                 |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Description  | Amount             |
| Released to SBCAG for regional transportation planning | \$107,270          |
| County's claim   | \$457,718          |
| Released to north county operators                     | \$3,073,000        |
| <b>Total Allocation</b>                                | <b>\$3,637,988</b> |

| County's Claim   |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Description  | Amount           |
| Bike and Pedestrian Facilities (PUC 99234)                     | \$155,439        |
| County Transit Fund (PUC 99400c)                               | \$150,000        |
| First-mile/Last-mile Projects (streets and roads) (PUC 99400a) | \$152,279        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$457,718</b> |

| LTF Release to Other Jurisdictions |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Jurisdiction                       | Amount             |
| Santa Maria (35%)                  | \$1,182,000        |
| Lompoc (23%)                       | \$777,000          |
| Solvang (8%)                       | \$270,000          |
| Guadalupe (3%)                     | \$102,000          |
| SMOOTH (4%)                        | \$135,000          |
| Easy Lift (8%)                     | \$270,000          |
| SBCAG (10%)                        | \$337,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$3,073,000</b> |

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

(See Attachment B)

*Narrative:* The allocation of \$457,718 retained by the County is budgeted in the Alternative Transportation Fund (0019). However, the County does not budget LTF released to other jurisdictions for reporting purposes. Fund 0019 includes separate programs for Pedestrian & Bikeway Facilities (Program 8825) and Transit (Program 8835).

**Special Instructions:**

Please forward the following to the Public Works Department, Transportation Division, Engineering Section office, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, Attn: Ashley Kruzel, ext. 83064:

- A certified, stamped Minute Order approving these recommendations.
- One duplicate original executed Agreement (one original Agreement to remain on file with the Clerk of the Board).

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Resolution

Attachment B: TDA Claim Form

**Authored by:**

Mark Friedlander, Mobility Manager, 568-3576

**cc:**

Ivan Lazaro, PW Accounting

Maya Kulkarni, SBCAG