



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: May 14, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director - Transportation, 568-3060

SUBJECT: Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Fund Claim for FY
2024-2025; All Supervisorial Districts

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 \$432,077 claim of a total allocation of \$3,612,598 in Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Fund (TDA-LTF) funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 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) 2024-25 Transportation Development Act-Local Transportation Fund (herein referred to as “LTF”) claim with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). In FY 2024-25 the County’s LTF allocation totals \$3,612,598, of which SBCAG will retain \$106,521 “off the top” for regional transportation purposes, the County will claim \$432,077 for bicycle and pedestrian projects, transit administration and planning costs, and transit-serving infrastructure projects in unincorporated areas. The \$3,074,000 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 2024-2025.

The TDA statute (Public Utilities Code Sections 99200 et seq.) establishes a priority order by which LTF funds are distributed. Allowed priorities includes 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 21, 2024, the SBCAG Board adopted a Resolution approving the 2024 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 24-25. Article 8 funds will be used in combination with Pedestrian & Bikeway Facilities funding to address ADA-accessibility issues at SMRT bus stops in the unincorporated Santa Maria Valley, restore street sweeping services along bike and transit routes in the Santa Ynez Valley, upgrade bus stops furniture (shelters, benches, etc.), and evaluate first-mile last-mile connectivity to existing bus stops.

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 23-24, the County will allocate \$3,074,000 (or 92%) 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), 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 24-25, 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 \$336,000 to SBCAG to support this regional service in FY 24-25.

Narrative:

The County can claim up to \$3,351,724 in LTF for local and regional transit. As shown on the attached Claim Form, the County will release \$3,074,000 of its total LTF apportionment to these jurisdictions:

- Santa Maria – 35% (\$1,175,000),
- Lompoc – 23% (\$775,000),
- Solvang – 8% (\$250,000),
- Guadalupe – 4% (\$135,000),
- SMOOTH (including Community Partner’s In Caring) – 12% (\$403,000); and
- SBCAG – 10% (\$336,000).

As mandated in the Public Utilities Code Section 99200 et seq., SBCAG will retain \$106,521 for regional transportation purposes, and the County will retain \$154,353 for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The total amount the County will directly receive is \$432,077 (\$154,353 for bike and pedestrian, \$100,000 for County Transit Fund, and \$177,724 for first-mile last-mile projects (streets and roads)).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes,

Narrative: The allocation of \$432,077 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).

Fiscal Analysis:

(See Attachment B)

Special Instructions:

Please forward the following to the Public Works Department, Transportation Division, Engineering Section office, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, Attn: Yanette Luna, ext. 83094:

- 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: TDA Resolution (2 duplicate originals)

Attachment B: TDA Claim (2 duplicate originals)

Authored by:

Mark Friedlander, Mobility Manager, 568-3576

cc:

Marika Ruh, PW Accounting

Dave Troutner, SBCAG