



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: 07/10/07  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Scott D. McGolpin, Interim Director of Public Works, 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Dace Morgan, Interim Deputy Director Public Works, 568-3064

**SUBJECT:** **Adopt Resolution to Receive Caltrans Grant Funding for the Agricultural Worker Vanpool Program and Contract with Santa Maria Organization of Helpers (SMOOTH) to Provide Agricultural Worker Vanpool Services; Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence.**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

- A. Adopt the attached Resolution (Attachment 1) to accept the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement with Caltrans for the Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP); and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to enter into a Grant Agreement for \$70,000 and any subsequent agreements with the Caltrans regarding this project and the receipt of funding; and
- C. Authorize the Chair to execute the attached Agreement (Attachment 2) between the County and the Santa Maria Organization of Transportation Helpers (SMOOTH) to provide One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000) in Transit Development Act (TDA) and Caltrans AWTP monies for Agricultural Worker Vanpool Program services in the Santa Maria Valley; and.
- D. Authorize the Director of Public Works to approve amendments to the agreement for supplemental work up to Eleven Thousand Five Hundred (\$11,500); and
- E. Upon approval of recommendations A through D, approve attached budget revision (Attachment 3) for professional services and purchase and/or lease of equipment.

**Summary Text:**

On February 6, 2007 the Board approved an application to Caltrans for funding from the State's new AWTP. The purpose of this program is to replicate farmworker vanpool programs across the State based on a successful model developed by Kings County. In March of 2007, the County received notice that the State had awarded \$70,000 in planning funds from this program. A combination of these AWTP and TDA funding sources from the County (\$100,000) and the City of Santa Maria (\$50,000), will enable a pilot program for farmworker transportation to be executed in the Santa Maria Valley. Specifically, the County will partner with SMOOTH and Kings County to replicate the farmworker vanpool program in Kings County. Recommended actions "A" and "B" are necessary actions by the Board of Supervisors so the County can accept these state grant funds.

SMOOTH is partnering on this pilot program and will provide a full range of services related to day-to-day operation and oversight of implementing the program in the Santa Maria Valley. Approval of recommended actions "C" and "D" establishes the contract between the County and SMOOTH for this pilot program for one year. Staff recommends that the Director of Public Works be given the authority to approve contract amendments for supplemental work that are beyond the scope of the proposed contract. The sum total cost of any amendments is limited to \$11,500. Your Board's approval of this recommendation would expedite contract amendments.

**Background**

In response to a series of traffic accidents in the Central Valley involving farmworkers traveling in unsafe vehicles, often without a licensed or insured driver, Kings County embarked on a pilot program to lease 15 passenger vans to farmworkers for work-related transportation. The program has been evolving for the last 5 years and received an award in 2004 from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Below is a brief project description from this CSAC Award:

“Bureaucratic red tape, hard-to-get insurance coverage for drivers and thorny federal labor laws have made it a challenge for farm workers to find transportation to and from work in Kings County and the Central San Joaquin Valley region. The county is home to one of the largest agricultural workforces in the nation that supports many enterprises, ranging from fieldwork to packinghouses, and safe transportation to and from jobs is an ongoing issue, especially since a collision involving a vehicle killed 13 farm workers in 1999. Utilizing a federal Job Access Reverse Commute grant, the county developed a vanpool pilot project in Kings and Tulare counties to counter the problem. Drivers who completed a physical, drug test and had a 10-year driving history were licensed to provide transportation to workers. The counties also purchased 15 passenger vans with GPS tracking to kick-off the program. Today, more than 80 vans transport 600 farm workers daily, operated by drivers with the means to get themselves and others to work without violating existing laws. Fresno County recently joined the program as well.”

The program now operates over 100 vans and recently received approximately \$5.0 million in AWTP funds to expand their efforts. Staff has met with Kings County staff to review their operation and receive guidance on how to replicate their efforts in our region. In addition, Kings County has offered to assist the County in procuring vans and providing administrative oversight of our efforts. An agreement between the County and Kings County will be a future item for the Board's consideration in the implementation of this pilot program.

As additional background, for the last 3 years during the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Unmet Transit Needs hearing process, testimony was received from the farmworker community regarding their need for transportation assistance in our region. This community desired some type of assistance with transportation from their residents to the packing houses and agricultural fields in the Santa Maria Valley. In response to this testimony, the County of Santa Barbara earmarked \$100,000 in TDA funding and the City of Santa Maria earmarked \$50,000 in TDA funding for the development of a pilot farmworker vanpool program in the Santa Maria Valley. To complete the start up funds for this effort, the County applied for and received a total of \$70,000 in ATWP grant funds from Caltrans. Therefore, a total of \$220,000 is available for the initial phase of the pilot program, which will include setting up the program and purchasing the vans to be used.

Unlike Kings County, the County does not act as the sole operator of any major transit systems. For example, to provide transit in the unincorporated Orcutt area the County pays the City of Santa Maria to operate the City's Santa Maria Area Transit in our jurisdiction. Therefore, staff is recommending to the Board that the County contract with SMOOTH for operation of this pilot program. SMOOTH brings 35 years of transit and transportation experience in the Santa Maria Valley to this project. They currently operate:

- City of Guadalupe Transit;
- A bus service for the County Health Department;
- Los Alamos Transit for County Public Works;
- Senior dial-a-ride in Orcutt and Santa Maria; and
- Transit to take developmentally disabled adults to Vocational Training Centers in Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo.

Services to be performed for the County's pilot program include project administration and data reporting, driver recruitment, training and orientation, and project marketing and outreach. The contract for services is included as Attachment 2.

As noted to your Board during the hearing on February 6, 2007, additional funding will be available from Caltrans to expand pilot programs across the State. Assuming a positive community acceptance of this initial phase of the pilot program and an effective implementation in the Santa Maria Valley, staff will be returning to your Board with an application for additional capital and operational funding. Caltrans is will be accepting applications on November 1, 2007 as a part of its AWTP.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Pursuant to the recommended agreement, \$115,000 in TDA and AWTP monies would be allocated for monthly payments to SMOOTH for the actual cost of providing vanpool services and an additional \$11,500 would be held by the County Public Works Department as a contingency fund. There are no facilities impacts associated with the recommended agreement.

**Fiscal Analysis:** With Board approval of recommended actions "A" and "B," the County will receive a total of \$70,000 in one-time revenues from Caltrans AWTP funding. These funds are to be accepted as revenue in Department 054/Fund 1935/Account 4339.

In anticipation of a pilot farmworker transportation program in the Santa Maria Valley, the Board approved a TDA Claim for FY 05/06 which contained \$100,000 for this effort. The Santa Maria City

Council also approved a TDA Claim for FY 05/06 which contained \$50,000 for this effort. These funds will be held in Department 054/Fund 1935/Account 4840.

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
TDA-- County	\$39,832		\$39,832
TDA-- City of Santa Maria	\$16,668		\$16,668
State	\$70,000		\$70,000
Federal			
Fees			
Total	\$126,500		\$126,500

With Board approval of recommended actions “C” and “D,” a total of \$126,500 will be budgeted in Fund 1935/Account 7460 for SMOOTH’s contract to assist the County with operating this program. A future Agenda Letter will address the remaining budget of \$93,500 in funding to be used for the purchase and/or lease of vans and an agreement with Kings County to provide program oversight assistance associated with this pilot program.

**Staffing Impacts:**

None.

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:**

Execute the original Resolution and original Agreement with SMOOTH for Vanpool Services.

Please provide for pick up to the attention of Kathleen Dowd, Public Works Traffic Section, the following documents:

1. a certified stamped minute order approving these actions;
2. a copy of the executed Resolution; and
3. a copy of the executed Agreement with SMOOTH.

Please Note: with the Board’s approval of Item “B” the County Interim-Public Works Director will be signing six copies of the Grant Agreement and sending them to the State for final execution. A wet ink copy will be returned to the Clerk of the Board following the State’s execution.

**Attachments:**

- #1 Resolution and Grant Agreement for AWTP Funds
- #2 Agreement with SMOOTH for Vanpool Services
- #3 Budget Revision for Professional Services and the Purchase and/or Lease of Vehicles

**Authored by:**

Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Charlie W. Ebeling, Traffic Section Manager, 568-3232 \_\_\_\_\_

c: D. Manuel, PW Accounting  
 Jim Talbott, Executive Director, SMOOTH