



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: March 25, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Receive And File a Status Report Regarding Progress on the Agricultural Worker Transportation Program; Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence.

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file a status report from Public Works staff regarding the County's Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP); and
2. Approve the attached budget revision #0000228 (Attachment 1) to accept the award of Caltrans funding from the State's AWTP.

Summary Text:

Your Board directed staff to return with a full update on the County's AWTP in June, 2008; however, the Department wanted to provide your Board with an intermediate update on the program to share the early success that we have been experiencing. The Department will return to your Board in June 2008 with a full report as directed.

On February 6, 2007 the Board approved an application to Caltrans for funding from the State's new Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (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 AWTP and Transportation Development Act funding from the County (\$100,000) and the City of Santa Maria (\$50,000), has enabled a pilot program for farmworker transportation to be executed in the Santa Maria Valley over the past several months.

On July 10, 2007 the Board approved an agreement between Caltrans and the County regarding the award of \$70,000 in funding for the pilot program. The Board also approved a contract with the Santa Maria Organization of Transportation Helpers (SMOOTH) to provide a full range of services related to

day-to-day operation and oversight of implementing the program in the Santa Maria Valley. On Oct. 23, 2007 the Board approved the purchase of nine (9) used vans from Kings County and authorized submittal of a grant to Caltrans to purchase and operate an additional fleet of vans for 3years.

On December 13, 2007 the County received notice from Caltrans that it had received an award of funding for nearly \$3.1 million from the State's AWTP. The County will utilize this funding to expand the vehicle fleet and pay for all of the program operations for the next 2 ½ years.



Rosemary Luque, Project Manager of SMOOTH

Background:

The purpose of this item is to give a brief status report to the Board regarding County AWTP efforts. Public Works staff is working closely with SMOOTH to develop and monitor the program and will continue to conduct regular site visits. The items listed below have occurred as of the fourth week of February 2008.

1. Nine (9) used vans have been purchased from Kings County and received by SMOOTH. They have passed a thorough safety inspection and have received logos and exterior “wraps” identifying them with the “AgVAN” program. To prepare the vans for service, repairs were required that were identified during the safety inspection. They included: shock replacement on all 9 vans, 2 new batteries, new brakes on 2 of the vans, 3 fire extinguishers and miscellaneous switches and bulbs. All vans were delivered from Kings County with tires in new or barely used condition.
2. SMOOTH has received support from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and State Employment Development Department. The CHP has conducted courtesy inspections on the nine vans, assisted outreach efforts by helping to distribute program flyers and brochures, and during a radio interview encouraged listeners to utilize the program. SMOOTH has also coordinated with the State Employment Development Program. This State office has also helped with distribution of program information and has invited SMOOTH staff to conduct presentations at classes and workshops.
3. SMOOTH has been conducting driver screenings (see results below). This has included a review of a driver’s Motor Vehicle Report (driver history), criminal background check as directed by your Board, training and vehicle orientation, and a physical. The criminal background checks typically take about 3-4 weeks to perform, but provide valuable information towards properly screening applicants. To date, one driver has been eliminated due to a prior criminal record.
4. Three (3) drivers are now using vans to transport an average of seven passengers per van, per day.

5. Three (3) additional drivers are completing their screening and training. For comparison purposes, Kings County (the program from which the County has modeled its effort) had identified one driver following six months of outreach.
6. Over 10,000 fliers have been distributed and 256 telephone calls have been received by SMOOTH staff regarding the AWTP.
7. With the receipt of the \$3.1 million in funding from Caltrans, County staff is beginning the second phase of van procurement under the terms of the AWTP grant. In cooperation with General Services, Public Works staff is preparing the purchase of 25 additional new vans to service the program. As vans are delivered, they will be outfitted and wrapped with the same equipment as was completed with the 9 used vans purchased from Kings County. These purchases will occur prior to the Department returning to your board in June, 2008 with a full report.
8. As was directed during the Board's hearing on Oct. 23, 2007, staff will return to the Board with a full status report in June, 2008.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
General Fund			
State	\$925,000		\$3,094,265
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$925,000	\$ -	\$3,094,265

Narrative: Funding for this program will now be provided from the Caltrans administered AWTP. Funding for the current fiscal year will be used to purchase vans and pay for staff and operating costs. Remaining State funds will be used to operate the program in its entirety through June, 2010 per the terms of the AWTP grant.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Please provide a copy of the Certified Stamped Minute Order for pick up to the attention of Kathleen Dowd, Public Works Traffic Section.

Attachment: #1-- Budget Revision #0000228

Authored by: Matt Dobberteen, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576

c: Donna Manuel, Public Works Accounting
Jim Talbott, Executive Director, SMOOTH