

REGIONAL TRANSIT ISSUE PAPER

Agenda Item No.	Board Meeting Date	Open/Closed Session	Information/Action Item	Issue Date
13	08/26/13	Open	Information	08/15/13

Subject: Update on SACOG Grants Program and RT's Requests

ISSUE

An information item to update the RT Board on the Sacramento Area Council of Government's (SACOG) Grant Program and Regional Transit's (RT) submitted requests.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None

FISCAL IMPACT

This action does not involve the expenditure of funds. Applications eventually awarded funding by SACOG will involve the expenditure of funds, and will be presented to the Board as future actions.

DISCUSSION

On May 16, 2013 the SACOG Board approved the 2013/14 Funding Round call for projects for the Bicycle and Pedestrian, Community Design, and Regional/Local funding programs. SACOG staff notified all potential recipients of the initial estimates of available funding and of the fact that the program might be a 3-year program. At the July 24, 2013 Board meeting (Agenda Item #4), the SACOG Board established the final targets for the FFY 2014/15 through FFY 2016/17, Flexible Funding Round. An application and selection process will occur over the next few months and the final selected projects will be presented to the SACOG Board in December 2013 for action. The "program objective" and estimated available funding for each of the three programs are as follows:

Bicycle/Pedestrian – Planning, engineering/design, and/or construction of facilities for walking and biking in the cities and towns in the region and to provide connections between them. Estimated available funding: \$15.8M.

Community Design – Planning, engineering/design, and/or construction of physical improvements to implement the Blueprint principles. Estimated available funding: \$23.7M.

Regional/Local – Funding for projects that provide regional benefits such as capital projects, bus acquisition and/or rehabilitation, road rehabilitation and the development of "shelf-ready" projects. Estimated available funding: \$136.1M.

Approved:

Presented:

General Manager/CEO

Director, Long Range Planning

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For this round of funding, RT working in partnership with other agencies as applicable, is pursuing the following grant applications to further RT's mission:

Bicycle/Pedestrian – In partnership with the Sacramento Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) as the lead agency and with the cities of Sacramento, West Sacramento and Davis, a grant application for \$3.2M for initial capital costs will be submitted for the implementation of the “BikeShare” program, infrastructure and up to 3 years of operating funds assistance to start this program. BikeShare is a program where users such as transit patrons have access to bicycles for “the last mile” of a trip. The goal is to reduce auto usage, increase the travelshed of transit users, and provide opportunities for mobility.

The first phase of the proposed BikeShare program will consist of 80 stations with 560 bicycles in the region. With 67 stations and 469 bikes in Sacramento, 3 stations and 21 bikes in West Sacramento and 10 stations and 70 bikes in Davis. The approximate location of stations and number of bikes have been estimated using regression analyses of population, density and other factors based on experiences in other cities. The precise locations of stations will be determined based on field reviews and discussions with affected landowners and agencies such as RT. As time passes and the success of this first phase can be assessed, the potential for expanding the BikeShare program to other communities in the region exists and will be evaluated.

There are over 25 BikeShare programs currently operating in the United States with the largest being in New York City (over 300 stations and 7,000+ bikes), the most financially successful program in Washington DC (over 1,700 bikes at 200+ stations) and the smallest system in Spartanburg, VA (14 bikes at 2 stations).

RT's commitment to this project, pending Board approval annually, is up to \$100,000 in capital expenditure and up to \$30,000 annually over three years to assist in operations. If approved, the project development could begin in 2014. Total commitments as of this date from all agencies are approximately \$450,000 in capital funding and \$90,000 per year for operating funds for three years.

Community Design Grant – As the lead agency, RT has submitted two grant applications for Community Design (CD) grant funding:

- Project development efforts (environmental clearance and design) for the Horn Road Light Rail station in collaboration with the City of Rancho Cordova of up to \$500,000. Both Rancho Cordova and RT are committed to providing a match for the grant of approximately \$58,000 each (pending Board approval at the time of award). The installation of the Horn Station at the proposed site is in accord with the City of Rancho Cordova's desire to provide opportunities to develop undeveloped parcels in the area and the desire to designate Folsom Boulevard as a “Smart Growth Street” with transit-oriented and mixed-use infill and redevelopment in appropriate locations within the Folsom Boulevard area. The Horn Station would also meet the need for regional light rail access to the Sacramento County Public Library directly adjacent to the proposed station site. If approved for “pre-construction” funding, these activities would begin in 2014.

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- Project development efforts (environmental clearance and design) of up to \$500,000 for the Dos Rios light rail station in collaboration with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) as part of SHRA's redevelopment of the Twin Rivers Housing Complex on 12th Street in the River District. SHRA has recently completed a HUD-funded Sustainable Communities Strategy plan for Twin Rivers and is requesting a \$30M Choice Neighborhoods grant from HUD for redevelopment of the 33-acre area changing the character from 218 low income dwelling units and vacant/under-developed parcels to a mixed-use complex of 650+ mixed-income residential units along with mixed-use commercial and community-oriented services such as a health clinic. Discussions with HUD have reinforced the need for the Dos Rios Station for the grant to be competitive. If approved, the project development could begin in 2014. SHRA is proposing to match up to \$500,000 with other funding.

Regional/Local – RT is the lead agency on three separate Regional/Local grant applications.

- As the lead agency, RT has applied for \$30,178,038 to purchase replacement buses and associated communication equipment, spare parts, major components and maintenance equipment. The replacement buses would include 46 40' CNG buses and 14 26' low-floor CNG cut-away buses. The requested funds would provide the balance of funds required to replace 96 40' buses that need to be replaced by 2017 and the Federal portion of the funds needed to replace 14 cut-away buses that need replacement by 2014 due to age, mileage or CNG tank expiration. The request is based on a cost of \$600,000 cost per bus for the 40' buses and \$130,000 cost per bus for the 26' buses.
- As the lead agency, RT has applied for \$2M in CMAQ funds for Blue Line Start-Up Costs. The CMAQ funds will provide Operating Assistance for Year 3 of the start up costs for the Project. In January 2010, the SACOG Board approved \$4M in CMAQ funds for start up costs for years 1 and 2 of the Project. If granted, the \$2M completes the \$6M in CMAQ funds included in the project start up funding plan.
- As the lead agency on behalf of the City of West Sacramento, City of Sacramento and the Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD), RT has applied for \$5M to continue the project development efforts now underway for the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar project. The funds will cover the design and environmental clearance of this project and make it "shelf-ready" for a future FTA-funded "Small Starts" application. The match for this grant application includes up to \$2M in Proposition 1B funds that were available to RT, up to \$3M of sales tax revenue from the City of West Sacramento, and potential match funding from the City of Sacramento and YCTD. If approved, the project development could begin in 2014.

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Applications for all three programs have been submitted and are now under review and assessment by SACOG. For the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Community Design Grant programs, a review committee comprised of representatives from most of the applicants plus other stakeholders will review all of the grants and, recognizing the limitations of available funding, make a prioritized recommendation on which project applications should be advanced for funding. Following this, the recommended project applications sponsors will meet with SACOG and Caltrans staff to review the projects, address questions or issues and make any minor changes to ensure the projects are eligible for specific types of federal funding. An RT representative was appointed to the Community Design Grant review committee.

For the regional/local program, SACOG and Caltrans staff will review all applications to ensure that projects for which funding is sought are eligible for the specific types of federal funding. Of the projects deemed to be eligible for funding, SACOG and Caltrans will balance the requests with the available financial resources and determine which projects will be funded.

Following the recommendations and reviews by SACOG, the recommended projects will be presented to the SACOG Board in December 2013 for action.