

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner  
RE: Article 8(c) Transportation Development Act Claim for the Volunteer Center and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency/Community Bridges

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommend that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

Approve by resolution (Attachments 1 and 2) the claims for FY 2005-06 Article 8(c) Transportation Development Act funds from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges, which is designated as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency.

As a reminder, only the city and county representatives may vote on Article 8 claims.

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**BACKGROUND**

Based on the Commission's adopted budget -- approved at the February 2005 Regional Transportation Commission meeting -- Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds were allocated for transportation agencies as well as local jurisdictions. TDA local transportation funds are derived from 1/4 cent of the 6-cent retail sales tax collected statewide, returned to each county according to the amount of tax collected in that county. As in years past, the Volunteer Center and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency/Community Bridges are recipients of TDA funds per formula allocation as stated in the Commission's Rules and Regulations. The approved FY 2005-06 apportionments are as follows:

Volunteer Center	\$ 66,406
Consolidated Transportation Services Agency	\$ 557,808

Because these funds are based on projected tax revenues, these fund estimates represent "not to exceed" amounts and could be less subject to the availability of tax revenue funds.

**DISCUSSION**

Again the City of Santa Cruz has agreed to act as the claimant for both the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges for TDA funds. On April 26, 2005, the City Council approved a resolution to act as the claimant for both entities. Resolutions from the City are attached (Attachment 3). Also attached are background materials for the Volunteer Center and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency/Community Bridges including a comparison of the proposed budget for this

fiscal year compared with the budget for last fiscal year (Attachment 4 and 5, respectively).

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee reviewed the claim at its May meeting and recommend approval. Representatives from both agencies have been invited to the June RTC meeting to provide brief presentations and be available to answer questions.

#### Volunteer Center

This program oversees over 100 volunteers who provide transportation (and companionship) to ambulatory individuals who may be physically incapable of utilizing traditional public transit. The TDA allocation to the Volunteer Center will fund mileage reimbursement and insurance and administration of their Transportation Program.

More than 6,400 rides were provided in fiscal year 2003-04. Estimates for FY 2004-05 appear to be above that amount. Many of the people receiving rides from the Volunteer Center's drivers are the most frail and elderly in our community and live in remote or rural areas not served by transit or paratransit. Highest priority is given to medical trips for low income persons. Other priority trips were to medical appointments for other persons, shopping and other miscellaneous destinations. As approved in year's past, the Volunteer Center is requesting their TDA funds in one lump sum, rather than quarterly payments. Because this is a relatively small sum, one payment will greatly assist the agency with meeting its fiscal year start up costs.

#### Consolidated Transportation Services Agency/Community Bridges

As the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA), the transportation program of Community Bridges continues to evolve to meet the specialized transportation services mobility needs of the elderly, disabled and low income in Santa Cruz County. Based on unmet needs identified in the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee's Annual Report process, public hearings and the Paratransit Coordination Task Force discussions, the Community Bridges transportation program has refined programs by adding additional service to the Watsonville Senior Center, and increasing the availability of Taxi Scrip, a major safety net for those ineligible for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandated paratransit rides. In addition, TDA dollars fund a low income medical voucher program and a portion of the out-of-county medical trips provided by the Red Cross. The TDA allocation to the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency will also assist in funding Medi-Cal rides administered by the Central Coast Alliance for Health. This mobility enables individuals with special needs to lead independent, productive lives, rather than be isolated in their homes.

As Commissioners are aware, in November 2004 Community Bridges ceased to provide ADA Paratransit rides under contract to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. Community Bridges still provides a significant amount of the paratransit services in Santa Cruz County. Although the totals for FY 2004-05 are not yet available because the fiscal year has not yet ended, projected rides provided by Community Bridges through all its funding sources is expected to total over 95,000, including 28,800 ADA Paratransit rides provided between July and October of 2004. Approximately 5,300 of the total number of rides were wholly funded by TDA funds. Other rides would not have been possible without the use of TDA funds as matching funds.

As in year's past, TDA funds requested by Community Bridges are more the first quarter than subsequent quarters, to help with the additional costs incurred at the beginning of the fiscal year.

### **SUMMARY**

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the resolution for the Volunteer Center and the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency/Community Bridges to receive Transportation Development Act funds with the City of Santa Cruz acting as their claimant.

#### Attachments:

1. Resolution to expend TDA Funds to the City of Santa Cruz for the Volunteer Center
2. Resolution to expend TDA Funds to the City of Santa Cruz for the CTSA/Community Bridges
3. Resolution from the City of Santa Cruz agreeing to act as the claimant for both the Volunteer Center and CTSA/Community Bridges
4. Background information from the Volunteer Center
5. Background information from the CTSA/Community Bridges