

Date: November 2, 2006

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner

RE: FY 2006-07 Community Bridges Transportation Development Act Claim – Supplemental Materials

RECOMMENDATION

The Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept additional information from Community Bridges regarding their FY 2006-07 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim, (Attachment 1);
 2. Accept background information from Community Bridges regarding the provision of medical rides for low income individuals through the Medi-Cal program administered by the Central Coast Alliance for Health, and hourly/contract operating rates (Attachment 2);
 3. Require that Community Bridges provide year-end reports outlining actual numbers and a comparison to their budget; and
 4. Approve additional more detailed review of all future Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims.
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BACKGROUND

The RTC approved an Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for both Community Bridges and the Volunteer Center at its June 1, 2006 meeting. The City of Santa Cruz agreed to act as the claimant for both agencies. In order to respond to comments made at that meeting, revised claim information for Community Bridges was provided to the June 29, 2006 Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW). Commissioners forwarded this item to the Budget & Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee.

In addition, staff convened a meeting on July 17, 2006 with Community Bridges, the Central Coast Alliance for Health (who locally administer the Medi-Cal program), Commissioner Spence, and Paul Marcelin-Sampson. Issues discussed included: a review of TDA and Consolidated Transportation Services Agency statutes; review of the purpose of TDA funding; review of Community Bridges claims and quarterly reports; discussion of current and future Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee roles for TDA recipients; review of Medi-Cal (administered by the Central Coast Alliance for Health) transportation eligibility, requirements, costs and providers; and review of unmet specialized transportation needs.

At the July 17th meeting, it was agreed that it would be helpful if Community Bridges provided more information about the differences between the original claim and the revised claim. Questions and answers about the medical rides provided by Community Bridges to low income individuals through the Medi-Cal program administered by the Central Coast Alliance for Health and information about hourly rates for TDA services and other contracts were also discussed. In addition, it was agreed that year-end reports would be provided by Community Bridges outlining the actual number of rides provided, and a comparison of budgeted amounts and actual expenditures including overhead costs.

DISCUSSION

A report was presented to the Budget and Administration Committee in August including the materials requested at the meeting with Community Bridges, staff, Commissioner Spence and Paul Marcellin-Sampson. The Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee discussed the additional information provided, TDA claim requirements for Community Bridges and other claimants, potential problems with requiring TDA claimants to have more public access to their information and meetings and whether there is a need for such a policy.

The request for a policy change regarding public access requirements for Transportation Development Act recipients was rejected by the Budget and Administration Committee as potentially onerous for smaller agencies and concluded that information is made public as it is provided to the RTC and its committees as part of the TDA claims process. To be responsive to the requests for more public access of TDA claimants information, the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee requested staff to provide additional and more detailed analysis of the Transportation Development Act claims for the Regional Transportation Commission's use in evaluating the annual funding requests. As such, they requested that the TDA claim information be standardized. Staff is working with other TDA claimants on standard reporting requirements including performance measures relative to the funding source. For this reason there is additional information provided with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District TDA claim, also included in this packet.

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission accept the background and additional materials from Community Bridges, require that year-end reports are produced including actual ride numbers and budget summaries, and approve additional more detailed review of future TDA claims.

In addition to working with TDA claimants, staff will also work with the RTC committees on developing a list of information that would be useful in reviewing TDA claims and return to the RTC with a recommendation.

SUMMARY

In response to RTC direction the B&A/P Committee reviewed the Community Bridges TDA claim. It is recommended that additional information regarding this claim be accepted and that there be more detailed analysis of all future TDA claims.

Attachments:

1. Letter from Community Bridges dated 7/26/06 and revised background materials (TDA Service Units, Other CTSA Service Units, TDA Funding)
2. Questions & Answers regarding Alliance/Medi-Cal rides provided by Community Bridges and Hourly Rates for TDA Services and Other Contracts
3. Previously submitted service unit charts

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