

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner

RE: Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and Public Participation Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Review the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and the Public Participation Plan and provide any comments to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) by April 28, 2008; and
 2. Assist staff in identifying entities that should review the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and provide input to ensure maximum competitiveness for our region in applying for federal funds.
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BACKGROUND

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that every community adopt a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPTP) and a Public Participation Plan. The Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is the lead on both plans for the region.

DISCUSSION

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

The purpose of the Coordinated Plan, according to Caltrans, is to develop “a unified comprehensive strategy for public transportation service delivery that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with limited incomes, lays out strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritizes services. The CPTP should maximize the programs’ collective coverage by minimizing duplication of services.”

All projects applying for the following four funding sources must be consistent or be derived from the plan:

- Section 5310 – Capital funds (80/20%) for specialized transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities
- Section 5311 – Operating, capital, and planning funds for projects designed to address the intercity bus transportation needs. Intercity bus service is defined as regularly scheduled bus service available to the general public to more distant points.

- Section 5316 – Jobs Access Reverse Commute for transportation services to/from training, employment and childcare services to qualified welfare and low-income recipients. Capital projects funded with 80/20% match and operating with a 50/50% match.
- Section 5317 – New Freedom Program for capital (80/20%) and operating (50/50%) expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the ADA that assist individuals with disabilities accessing transportation services including to/from jobs and employment support services

More information about the grant programs, including application deadlines and eligibility, is attached (Attachment 1). **Entities interested in applying for these funds must make sure that they are consistent with the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.**

The Coordinated Plan is organized in the following sections for each of the three counties:

- ❑ Transportation Services and Providers – an overview of services currently available; and entities overseeing planning, policy and funding
- ❑ Human Services Transportation Needs – demographics for each area including census and projected figures for the number of seniors, people with disabilities and low-income individuals
- ❑ Unmet Needs Assessment – based on each area’s unmet needs hearings
- ❑ Implementation and Prioritization: Strategies to Fill Gaps – translation of unmet needs into priority project objectives

Public Participation Plan

This plan provides guidelines and identifies opportunities for interested parties to participate in the transportation planning process for the region.

Comment Timeline

In mid March, AMBAG released both the draft Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and the draft Public Participation plan for 45-day review periods. Written comments must be submitted by April 28, 2008 to AMBAG. The web link to the documents is: <http://www.ambag.org/events/events.htm>. Printed copies will be available at the RTC meeting and are available upon request.

SUMMARY

Written comments will be accepted on the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and the Public Participation Plan until April 28. Now is the time to ensure that projects seeking federal Section 5310, 5311, 5316, and 5317 are consistent with the Coordinated Plan. Inclusion in the plan will assist project sponsors in being competitive with other projects throughout the state for these specialized transportation funds.