

SCCRTC Consolidated Call for Projects (RSTPX, STIP, LPP)

APPLICATION/PROJECT PROGRAMMING REQUEST

SCCRTC 2025 Consolidated Grants Program (2026 RTIP)

A. PROJECT INFORMATION		
Applicant/Implementing Agency		Public Agency Sponsor (if different)
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District		Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Contact Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Derek Toups	831-420-2580	dtoups@scmtd.com
Project Title		
Paratransit Vehicle Replacement and Expansion Project		
Agency Priority Number (e.g. 1 of 3)		4 of 4
Description and Scope of Work (attach extra pages to fully describe scope)		
<p>The project will replace six paratransit vehicles that are operating an average of 9.7 years past useful life and add two new vehicles to meet the growing demand for the fleet. METRO is requesting \$288,000 in FY2025/26 LPP funding to use as match funding for METRO's FY 2025 grant application for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program requesting \$1,152,000 in federal funds for 8 new ParaCruz vehicles. The vehicles specified for purchase in the application are 20 ft Ford Transit T350 vans with a 13 passenger capacity, including 3 foldaway seats. The quoted vehicle price includes a 15% cost add-on for the purchase and installation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). See Attachment A Quote for New Vehicles.</p>		
Location, Limits, Length (attach map(s)/photos separately)		
<p>METRO operates over 479 directional route miles throughout the county. METRO's paratransit fleet provides service to any destination within Santa Cruz County that is within three-quarter (¾) miles of an operating bus route. New vehicles will operate throughout the Santa Cruz County public transit network, serving eligible customers who are unable to use fixed route buses for some or all their mass transportation trips. See Attachment B Map of METRO Service.</p>		
Roadway Functional Classification (see Caltrans map link):		Select If Applicable
Summary of Project Benefits, Purpose and Need		
<p>METRO currently lacks the paratransit capacity to meet the growing demand of an aging population. As the Santa Cruz County population ages, with 25% of the population expected to be over 65 by 2040, this demand will only continue to grow. To help meet this demand METRO needs to address a growing backlog in vehicle replacement. Failure to address the issue of an aging paratransit fleet will lead to more vehicles being taken out of service, less reliability, and ultimately a higher cost to the agency. One vehicle in need of replacement is no longer in use due to its poor condition, and the remaining five have an average of 222,424 miles. The vehicles are all operating past their useful life, and are, on average, 9.7 years past their useful life. METRO has 15 more buses that will reach the end of their useful life by 2028, which would further exacerbate the backlog of vehicles in need of replacement. METRO also needs to add two more vehicles to meet the growing demand for paratransit in the region. Expanding the fleet with the new vehicles will reduce wait times by 5-6 minutes and increase the service ratio by 8%. This will allow more seniors, many of whom cannot drive, to access ParaCruz services. This is particularly essential to help address the first- and last- mile issue, with many seniors and disabled individuals unable to access METRO's fixed-route buses. FY2025/26 LPP funds will help METRO maintain a state of good repair for a minimum of five years or an accumulation of at least 150,000 miles, consistent with federal and state guidance and industry standards relative to their respective asset class. See Attachment C Condition of</p>		

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Funds requested	\$288,000	Total Project Cost	\$1,440,000	Estimated # of Daily Users	177
Are you able/willing to receive federal funds?	Yes				
Was project previously programmed for funds by RTC?	No	RTIP ID			
Project Cost by Mode (list approximate percentage of total project costs)					
Mode		% of Total Cost			
Pavement Preservation (rehab, overlay, etc.)					
Road-Auto serving (not rehab)					
Bicycle					
Pedestrian					
Transit		100%			
Transportation System Management (TSM)					
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)					
Other: Include description					
Total		100%			

B. PROJECT BENEFITS/ EVALUATION CRITERIA

Information in this section will be used to evaluate projects. The RTC is required to consider how well projects advance regional, state and federal goals, policies, performance metrics and targets, including how projects will contribute towards implementation of the long-range transportation plan (Regional Transportation Plan) and other state and federal regulations including the California Complete Streets Act of 2008, SB375, the Federal FAST Act. See Attachment 2 of the call for projects for examples of type of information to demonstrate benefits.

Project Title:		Paratransit Vehicle Replacement and Expansion Project
Generally, what are the benefits of this project?		
The new buses will significantly reduce METRO's operating costs due to lower maintenance costs and anticipated lower fuel costs compared to older buses. Replacing key parts of the agency's aging fleet reduces the odds of breakdowns and service interruptions, which leads to costly delays and, in some cases, patients missing appointments or job shifts. Individuals with limited mobility currently lack access to jobs, school, and medical appointments. Expanding the fleet allows more seniors, low-income, and disabled individuals to access the METRO bus system, which in turn unlocks economic and medical opportunities. By allowing the paratransit fleet to cover more ground and carry more people, paratransit passengers have greater access to the region. The new vehicles will reduce wait times by 5-6 minutes and increase the Paratransit service ratio by 8%. Paratransit provides a lifeline that not only connects residents to economic opportunities, but also recreational activities and community life, reducing the isolation that seniors and disabled residents often face. Paratransit also provides evacuation services for these residents. Paratransit vehicles help evacuate elderly and disabled residents in emergency events, as they did during the 2021 wildfires and flooding.		
How does this project address any of the following criteria?		Projects are not expected to address all of these; if not applicable or not a primary purpose, write "N/A".
1	Access for All	The project will help to provide people with limited mobility reliable access to medical appointments and services, recreational and commercial activities, improving quality of life. This is particularly essential to help address the first- and last- mile issue, with many seniors and disabled individuals unable to access METRO's fixed-route buses.
2	Collisions and Safety	The new paratransit vehicles will improve METRO's ability to assist with future evacuations in emergency events.
3	System Preservation & Infrastructure Condition	Currently, 24% of METRO's paratransit fleet is past its useful life. The six vehicles being replaced are, on average, 9.7 years past their useful life. One vehicle in need of replacement is no longer in use due to its poor condition, and the remaining five have an average of 222,424 miles. By 2028, METRO expects 15 more vehicles to reach their useful life. Acquiring new vehicles now will assist the agency to reduce the backlog of paratransit vehicles in need of replacement.
4	System Performance	Expanding the fleet with the new vehicles will reduce wait times by 5-6 minutes and increase the service ratio by 8%. Addressing a growing backlog in vehicle replacement will enhance the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of paratransit service. Failure to address the issue of an aging paratransit fleet will lead to more vehicles being taken out of service, less reliability, and ultimately a higher cost to the agency.
5	Public Health	N/A
6	Benefits to Equity Priority Communities	While the paratransit vehicles will serve the entire Santa Cruz County area, they will provide significant service to qualified Opportunity Zones. Santa Cruz county contains census tracts 101000, 100800, 121402, and 121600, all of which qualify as Opportunity Zones. Paratransit service is particularly vital in these zones where poverty rates are higher, and personal vehicle ownership is lower than county averages.
7	Climate Change and Resiliency	N/A

8a	Funding- Overall Funding Plan: If RTC approves the requested funds, will the project be fully funded? If not, how much additional funding is needed, and what is the likelihood of securing those funds? Please provide a realistic assessment of the project's overall funding security.	METRO applied to the Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (5339b) for \$1,152,000 of federal funding for this project. The FY2025/26 LPP funding will provide the \$288,000 in local match funding required for the 5339b award. If RTC approves the requested funds, then METRO will be able to fully fund this project.
8b	Committed Funding: What other funding has been secured for the project?	If awarded, METRO will commit \$1,152,000 in 5339b funding for this project.
8c	Leveraging: Will the funds you are requesting from RTC be used to leverage other grants? If so, please identify those grants and the potential funding amounts. If RTC funding is not approved, will any of this other funding be at risk of being lost?	The funds requested in this application will be used to leverage \$1,152,000 in 5339b grant funds. FY2025/26 LPP funding will provide the local match for that grant award. If METRO does not receive the LPP funds, then the agency will be forced to provide this match funding from Measure D/Capital Reserves.
8d	Eligibility for Other Grants: Is this project eligible for any other competitive grants? If so, what other grants are reasonably available for this project, and what is the status of those applications?	METRO is seeking 80% of the funding for this project from the Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (5339b). The agency provided its application submittal in June and is awaiting a decision from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
8e	Funding for Cost Increases: How will potential cost increases be funded? What potential funding sources are available to cover unanticipated cost increases?	If the vehicle costs increase beyond the initial quotation then METRO will be able to utilize Measure D/Capital Reserves.
8f	Partial Funding: If the RTC approves partial funding or the project costs increase, can the project be scaled to match available funds?	The project cannot be scaled back further. The requested FY2025/26 LPP funds will be used to provide the match for a 5339b application to fund the purchase of eight new paratransit vehicles.
9	Project Readiness and Potential Delivery Risks-	
9a	Schedule: How quickly can the project be implemented to provide benefits to the community? Are there any potential risks that could impact the project schedule?	The implementation period for this project is two years. The only identified risks that could impact the project schedule are delays in the delivery dates of the vehicles.
9b	Deliverability: Describe why your agency is capable of delivering this project. (sufficient staff, project management, performance in past)	The agency has successfully completed innumerable new vehicle purchases. More recently, the agency undertook a large acquisition of 53 hydrogen vehicles and has already received the majority of those vehicles.
9c	Environmental: Describe any potential environmental issues, mitigations, risks associated with current and future environmental conditions (climate change, extreme weather, seismic)	N/A
9d	Mitigating Risks: What efforts will be undertaken to minimize risks to project implementation.	METRO will stay in communication with the vehicle manufacturer to receive updates in any delays in the vehicle production schedule.
9e	Other: Describe any other potential risks and plans to mitigate risks.	N/A
10	Consistency with Complete Streets guidelines and policies: Describe how is project consistent with guidelines and integrates complete streets elements.	Acquiring new buses for the fleet will increase the cost-effectiveness of paratransit operations by reducing METRO's operating costs. The newer vehicles will incur lower maintenance and fuel costs compared to older buses. Increasing the paratransit fleet size will also improve transportation equity by providing seniors and people with disabilities access to the METRO bus system, which in turn unlocks economic and medical opportunities.

11a	Public engagement: Was this project identified as a priority by the community? How was it determined to be a priority? How have residents in the project area been involved in the decision-making or project information process to date?	One of METRO's top priorities is continuing and enhancing paratransit services to meet the growing demand of an aging population. In 2025, Santa Cruz County is expected to have the largest proportion of its population (18%) be senior citizens (65+), as shown in the Monterey Bay Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. By 2040, 25% of Santa Cruz County's population will be over the age of 65. The Plan specifically calls out the need for more paratransit vehicles in Santa Cruz County. Furthermore, the 2021 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (SCCRTC) Unmet Transit Needs indicated a need for increased service reliability and transportation services to areas with high concentrations of seniors, disabled, and low-income individuals.
11b	Outreach: Describe how the public and stakeholders were/will be engaged in the development and implementation of the project (e.g. intended outreach methods, activities, pop-up planning events; planning activities at community events; community workshops; design charrettes; online and social media, etc.)	METRO will proactively share key project updates through existing communication channels on its website, through social media and press releases.
11c	Diverse Participation: How will you ensure participation from diverse and historically underrepresented members of the public in project planning? What specific outreach to low-income, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), etc., residents about this project has already been conducted or is planned?	Data from METRO's 2019 Onboard Transit Ridership Survey indicate that 65% of METRO's customers earn less than \$24,000. The Watsonville service area comprises eleven U.S. Census Tracts designated as Areas of Persistent Poverty. By utilizing the agency's existing communication channels METRO will be able to share key project updates with low-income populations.
12a	RTP Consistency: If project is included in the approved 2045 or draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Project List, provide RTP Project Number/title	MTD 02 Replace buses/vans for ADA paratransit fleet
12b	Consistency with other plans. What other plans is this project listed in, if any?	METRO assets are tracked in the agency's Transit Asset Management (TAM) plan. The Monterey Bay Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan details the need for more paratransit vehicles in Santa Cruz County. The 2021 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (SCCRTC) Unmet Transit Needs indicated a need for increased service reliability and transportation services to areas with high concentrations of seniors, disabled, and low-income individuals.
13	Scale of Benefits - How many users are expected to use the facility, service or program? What is the source of this estimate?	FY25 METRO Paratransit boardings totaled over 64,000 in FY25. The agency's transit service currently supports an average of 177 daily boardings. METRO tracks Paratransit boardings using Ecolane.

C1. CAPITAL PROJECTS - SCHEDULE, COST AND FUNDING SUMMARY

Non-infrastructure projects/programs/plans - see NI tabs

Project Title:	Paratransit Vehicle Replacement and Expansion Project		
Project Schedule/Milestone <i>(For TRANSIT vehicles- modify milestones accordingly or use Uniform Transit Application)</i>	Anticipated Date	Notes on schedule (flexibility, worst-case schedule)	
Notice to Proceed	01/15/26		
RFP/IFB Issue Date	02/01/26		
Contract Award Date	06/30/26		
Initial Delivery Date	01/31/27		
Final Delivery Date	06/30/27		
Contract Completion Date	09/30/27		
Project Close	10/31/27		

Project Cost Summary/Funding Information									
Total Project Cost (\$1,000s) - AUTO FILLS (do not enter numbers here)									
Component	Prior	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	Total	
E&P (PA&ED)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PS&E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R/W SUP (CT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CON SUP (CT)	0	1,440	0	0	0	0	0	1,440	
R/W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	0	1,440	0	0	0	0	0	1,440	

Fund No. 1:		NEW FUNDS REQUESTED FROM RTC							SCCRTC to consider proposals at its November 6, 2025 meeting	
Fiscal Year										
Component	Prior	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	Total	Are there certain fund sources (e.g. federal, STIP) your	
E&P (PA&ED)								0	FY2025/26 LPP	
PS&E								0		
R/W SUP (CT)								0		
CON SUP (CT)		288						288		
R/W								0		
CON								0		
TOTAL	0	288	0	0	0	0	0	288		

Fund No. 2:		Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program							Funding status	
Fiscal Year									Are these funds secured?	No
Component	Prior	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	Total		
E&P (PA&ED)								0	If no, when will you know if funds are secured?	We anticipate being informed of the status of our application in October.
PS&E								0		
R/W SUP (CT)								0		
CON SUP (CT)		1,152						1,152	What risks are there to these funds, if any?	The federal 5339b funds may not be awarded.
R/W								0		
CON								0		
TOTAL	0	1,152	0	0	0	0	0	1,152		










C2. ENGINEERS ESTIMATE



Replace with categories/format appropriate to your project. Shown below are examples only.

Project:	Paratransit Vehicle Replacement and Expansion Project				
Item No.	Engineer's Estimate				
1	Environmental Studies and Permits				\$0
2	Plans, Specifications, and Estimate				\$0
	Right of Way				
3	Right of Way Acquisition				\$0
4	Right of Way Support				\$0
5	Utility Relocation (exclude if included in construction)				\$0
	TOTAL RIGHT OF WAY COMPONENT COST				\$0
	Construction (Update items to match actual items for project)				
	Item Description	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Total
6	ITS)	6	EA	\$144,000.00	\$864,000
7	New Paratransit vehicle replacement (including 15% for ITS)	2	EA	\$144,000.00	\$288,000
	SUBTOTAL CONSTRUCTION ITEMS				\$1,152,000
	TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST				\$1,152,000
Total Cost					\$ 1,152,000.00

E. CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES

As authorized representative for my agency, I hereby certify that the information contained in this application, including required attachments, is accurate and hereby certify the following:


Project:	0	INITIALS
1	The project implementing agency possesses legal authority to nominate projects and to finance, acquire, construct, and/or implement the proposed project;	
2	This project is among the highest priorities for this agency;	
3	The proposed transportation investments have received the full review and vetting required by law;	
4	Such investments are an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. The agency shall adhere to principles and policies that ensure government oversight and management of the contracting process to ensure taxpayer funds are spent wisely; contracts are not wasteful, inefficient, or subject to misuse; unnecessary no-bid and cost-plus contracts are avoided; and contracts are awarded according to the best interests of California taxpayers;	
5	The agency will maintain and operate the property acquired, developed, rehabilitated, or restored for the life of the resultant facility(ies) or activity. I understand that with the approval of the California Department of Transportation, the Administering Agency or its successors in interest in the property may transfer the responsibility to maintain and operate the property;	
6	If these new funds are used to replace funds previously committed to this project, the agency will maintain its effort with regard to redirecting those funds to similar transportation projects;	
7	The agency will give RTC and California Department of Transportation's representative access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the project;	
8	Work on the project shall commence within a reasonable time after receipt of notification that funds have been approved, allocated or obligated, as applicable, and that the project will be carried to completion with reasonable diligence;	
9	The agency will comply where applicable with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and any other federal, state, and/or local laws, rules and/or regulations;	

10	The agency shall comply with all reporting requirements outlined by FHWA, FTA, RTC, Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) or state statute, as applicable;	
11	The agency will commit the funds necessary to ensure this project is fully funded.	

Implementing Agency Representative:

Signed

DocuSigned by:



Corey Aldridge

14200000000000000000

Date 9/15/2025

Printed (Name and Title)

Corey Aldridge/CEO

Implementing Agency

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Project Sponsor – if different

Signed

Date

Printed (Name and Title)

Sarah Christensen/Executive Director

Sponsor Agency

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commissi



CalACT MBTA RFP #20-01 - Class A - Quote Sheet (Rev 2024)				
Vehicle Type:	Class A - Starcraft Bus (Starlite)		Date:	7/7/2025
Contact:	Margo Ross COO		Lift Info:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Braun <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rear
Agency:	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District		Seat Material Level:	Doc 90
Address:	110 Vernon Street		Seat Color:	Blue
City, State, Zip:	Santa Cruz, CA 95060		Flooring and Color:	Gerflor Gray
Phone:	(831) 426-6080		Salesperson:	Jay Holzhuter
E-Mail:	mross@scmtld.com		Salesperson Cell:	(650) 222-2621
Delivery:	210 -240 days from receipt of PO		Salesperson E-Mail:	jholzhuter@model1.com
NOTE:	PER THE PURCHASING COOPERATIVE, PRICING SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO PPI (PRODUCER PRICE INDEX) ESCALATION AND/OR MANUFACTURER PRICE INCREASES. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE TO CONFIRM QUOTED PRICING IS STILL VALID PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDER.			
Quantity:	Description	Price	Ext. Price	ADA
1	Starcraft Bus - Class A - (Ford Transit T350)	\$114,321.00	\$114,321.00	\$19,535.00
Published Options				
3	1 - Freedman Foldaway Seat (double)	\$2,256.00	\$6,768.00	\$6,768.00
1	9 - Credit for seat delete	-\$131.00	-\$131.00	
1	30 - Additional Mobility Aid position 360's (w/tie downs)	\$1,177.00	\$1,177.00	\$1,177.00
1	47 - 2-Way radio prep	\$185.00	\$185.00	
1	87 - Locking rear door w/alarm (one window)	\$529.00	\$529.00	
1	101 - Fogmaker fire suppression	\$7,238.00	\$7,238.00	
1	125 - Delivery Zone 3	\$1,254.00	\$1,254.00	
Non-Published Options				
1	Apollo 8 Camera System (Pre-Wire only)	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	
2	Lights - 7" LED brake light	\$225.00	\$450.00	
1	SCTA Paint and graphics	\$6,200.00	\$6,200.00	
NOTE:				
PER THE PURCHASING COOPERATIVE, PRICING SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO PPI (PRODUCER PRICE INDEX) ESCALATION AND/OR MANUFACTURER PRICE INCREASE. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE TO CONFIRM QUOTED PRICING IS STILL VALID PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDER.		Class A - Base Price	\$114,321.00	
		Published Options	\$17,020.00	
		Non-Published Options	\$10,550.00	
		Total	\$141,891.00	\$27,480.00
		Doc Prep Fee	\$85.00	
The Non-Taxable Amount is the ADA Equipment in the Base and Added as Options		Non-Taxable	\$27,480.00	
The Taxable Amount Includes the Mobility Rebate of \$1,000.00 For Ford Chassis		Taxable Amount	\$115,496.00	
Santa Cruz*		Tax Total	\$10,683.38	9.250%
		Sub-Total	\$152,659.38	
		CalACT Fee	\$2,128.37	
		DMV E-File Fee:	\$33.00	
		DMV Fee	\$0.00	(Estimated)
		Tire Fee	\$12.25	
		Total	\$154,833.00	
		Number of Units	1	
		Final Total	\$154,833.00	
Purchasing of vehicles requires a CALACT membership, letter of assignment, and payment of procurement fee. If you have any questions, please contact CALACT direct at 916-920-8018				

