



■ 260 North San Antonio Road., Suite B ■ Santa Barbara, CA ■ 93110
■ Phone: 805/961-8900 ■ Fax: 805/961-8901 ■ www.sbcag.org

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: FTA Section 5310 Grant Applications

MEETING DATE: April 20, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 8

STAFF CONTACT: Sarkes Khachek and Michael Powers

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct public hearing and adopt resolution approving the ranking of an application submitted by Santa Maria Area Transit for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 capital grant program for fiscal year 2006-2007 funding cycle.

SUMMARY:

The Section 5310 program provides federal grant funding for purchasing transit vehicles and other capital projects that are used for transit services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. SBCAG must evaluate and score funding applications submitted by local organizations using state criteria. The applications and scoring are submitted to the state for review and approval within the available funding level. Approximately \$12 million will be available statewide in FY 2006-07 through this program. SBCAG holds a hearing to allow public comment on project applications and the proposed scoring. One application has been submitted by Santa Maria Area Transit for 2 replacement buses and some communications and Global Positioning System Equipment.

DISCUSSION:

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Program for Elderly and Disabled Individuals (49 U.S.C. Section 5310), is a capital funding program for the purpose of meeting the transportation needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities, where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate.

Those agencies eligible to apply for the Section 5310 grants are:

- Private non-profit corporations and associations;

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

- Public agencies where no private non-profits are readily available to provide the proposed service, or;
- Public agencies that have been approved by the State to coordinate services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

The Section 5310 Statewide Prioritized List for 2005-2006, provided funding for projects receiving scores from 100 to 75 (with a maximum possible rating of 100). Easy Lift Transportation Inc. had submitted an application for the 2005-2006 funding cycle for eight vehicles and received funding for all replacement vehicles, with statewide scores ranging between 80 and 82. Over the last number of years, a variety of applicants from Santa Barbara County, including SMOOTH (the CTSA in the Santa Maria Area), have successfully competed in this discretionary statewide program.

Section 5310 applications for the 2006–2007 funding cycle were provided by either Caltrans, Office of Specialized Transit and Procurement, or by SBCAG, to 36 agencies in Santa Barbara County (Attachment #1). In addition, SBCAG distributed informational flyers regarding the 5310 grant opportunity to North County and South Coast social service agencies via the Santa Barbara County Transit Advisory Committee (SBCTAC), and the grant opportunity was noticed on the SBCAG website.

Staff provided grant application support to representatives from the various agencies. In this grant cycle, only Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT) submitted a Section 5310 grant application. SMAT provides fixed route and ADA paratransit services to the elderly frail and persons with disabilities and provides the Americans with Disabilities Act (AD) complementary paratransit service in the Santa Maria – Orcutt urbanized area.

SMAT is requesting a total grant of \$163,000 for the purchase of 2 large Type III buses to maintain program service through a vehicle replacement program. The request for the replacement of the vehicles is based upon vehicle age and mileage. SMAT is also requesting two mobile radios and a GPS bus tracking system.

In accordance with the California Transportation Commission Resolution # G-97-01, SBCAG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), must score and forward all eligible projects within its jurisdiction in the form of an Adopted Regional Priority List to CalTrans, Office of Specialized Transit and Procurement. In addition, SBCAG must also submit Section 5310 Certification and Assurances, and certify by resolution that any approved Section 5310 project is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (Submittals).

At the discretion of SBCAG, applications may be scored in-house or by a regional evaluation committee. Applications are evaluated and scored within each region of the state using the state adopted criteria, vis-à-vis the Quantitative Scoring Criteria and Project Rating Form. This ensures that the projects competing for the Section 5310 funding program are consistently evaluated.

The 5310 applications were scored in-house by SBCAG staff. SMAT submitted an application for the purchase of 2 vehicles to replace existing aging vehicles. The application received scores of 69 for each bus that were rated separately. Lower scores were due primarily to the relatively younger age of the buses based on the state scoring criteria, i.e. buses are awarded more points if they are much older, have excessive road miles, or demonstrable maintenance

problems. SMAT received scores of 84 for the mobile radio and Global Positioning System (GPS) software and hardware.

The review process requires SBCAG to notify the applicants of their scores as well as inform them of the local appeals process. Agencies may appeal their score(s) by presenting their statement of appeal to the SBCAG Board at today's public hearing. Staff notified SMAT staff of their provisional score and ranking and of the appeals process on April 11, 2006 (Attachment #2).

The Adopted Regional Priority List must be submitted to Caltrans, Office of Specialized Transit and Procurement, by May 6, 2006. This list will then be submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), Statewide Evaluation Committee (SEC), for review. The SEC will review, score, and incorporate all submitted applications into a prioritized statewide list of projects. The Committee will then hold a staff level conference for all stakeholders to discuss the statewide-prioritized list and to hear any appeals on technical issues. Only appeals based on actions that occurred at the statewide level will be considered. The appealing agency will have to demonstrate, using documentation from the original application, that the SEC incorrectly followed the adopted criteria.

The Statewide Committee will submit a final statewide-prioritized list to the CTC. The CTC will hold a public hearing to discuss the prioritized list and overall program policy, after which the CTC will adopt the prioritized list as the annual Elderly and Disabled Transit Program. Projects will be funded in priority order until available funds have been utilized.

Staff recommends consideration of public input from the public hearing, approval of the scoring of the projects, and adoption of Resolution 06-11.

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

Submittals Form 1: FTA Section 5310 Adopted Regional Priority List
Form 2: MPO/RTPA Section 5310 Certification and Assurances
Form 3: Resolution FTA Section 5310 Applications

Attachment #1 Section 5310 application distribution list

Attachment #2 Notification letter, Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT)

Submittals

**FTA Section 5310 Adopted Regional Priority List
MPO/RTPA Section 5310 Certification and Assurances
Resolution FTA Section 5310 Applications**

**FTA Section 5310 Adopted Regional Priority List
FY 2006-2007**

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>PROJECT</i>	<i>TYPE</i>	<i>VIN</i>	<i>QTY</i>	<i>SECTION 1 SCORE</i>	<i>SECTION 2 SCORE</i>	<i>SECTION 3 SCORE</i>	<i>SECTION 4 SCORE</i>	<i>SECTION 5 SCORE</i>	<i>TOTAL SCORE</i>
Santa Maria Area Transit	Large Bus - Type III	R	45660	1	0	30	5	24	10	69
Santa Maria Area Transit	Large Bus - Type III	R	45663	1	0	30	5	24	10	69
Santa Maria Area Transit	Mobile Radio			2	13	30	5	24	10	82
Santa Maria Area Transit	GPS Software			1	13	30	5	24	10	82
Santa Maria Area Transit	GPS Hardware			5	13	30	5	24	10	82

Total points possible: 100

- Section 1** Project Need - Replacement, Service Expansion, Other Equipment (Maximum 20 points)
- Section 2** Project Need - Unavailable, Insufficient, Inappropriate (Maximum 10 points)
- Section 3** Service Effectiveness (Maximum 30 points)
- Section 4** Ability of Applicant (Maximum 30 points)
- Section 5** Coordination (Maximum 10 points)

MPO/RTPA SECTION 5310 CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments certifies and assures that the requirements and conditions of 49 U.S.C. 5310 have been met by all applicants recommended for funding.

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments certifies and assures that the Section 5310 applications recommended for funding were included in the region's public participation process as required by Statewide and MPO Planning Regulations.

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments certifies by resolution, *attached*, that the projects recommended for funding are consistent with the local area's Regional Transportation Plan. In an urbanized area, the projects recommended for funding will also be included in the Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Certifying Representative:

Name: *Jim Kemp*

Signature: _____

Title: *Executive Director*

Date: *April 20, 2006*

**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA
COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

FTA SECTION 5310 APPLICATION SCORING,))
FY 2006-2007

RESOLUTION NO. 06-11

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) has been designated as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency and Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, SBCAG has received a Section 5310 application from Santa Maria Area Transit, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, SBCAG has reviewed and evaluated this application according to the state criteria; and

WHEREAS, the applications are consistent with SBCAG's Regional Transportation Plan and Federal Transportation Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, SBCAG certifies and assures that the Section 5310 application recommended for funding were subject to the region's public participation process required statewide by Metropolitan Planning Organizations; and

WHEREAS, the projects recommended for funding by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) will be included in the Regional Transportation Plan and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments approves the ranking of the Section 5310 grant applications for submittal to Caltrans, Office of Specialized Transit and Procurement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of April 2006 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Jim Kemp
Executive Director

Joe Centeno, Chair
Santa Barbara County
Association of Governments

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kevin E. Ready, Sr.
Deputy County Counsel

ATTACHMENT #1

Section 5310 Application Distribution List

Agency

- 1). Action Network
- 2). AIDS Housing Santa Barbara
- 3). Alpha Resource Center
- 4). American Cancer Society
- 5). Buellton Senior Center
- 6). City of Buellton
- 7). City of Carpinteria
- 8). City of Goleta
- 9). City of Lompoc
- 10). City of Santa Barbara
- 11). City of Santa Maria
- 12). City of Solvang
- 13). Community Partners in Caring
- 14). Easy Lift Transportation
- 15). Girl Scout Council of Santa Barbara
- 16). Goleta Valley Senior Center
- 17). Good Samaritan Shelter
- 18). Guadalupe Senior Center
- 19). HELP of Carpinteria
- 20). Life Options Vocational and Resource Center
- 21). Life Steps Foundation
- 22). M.O.R.E.
- 23). Pilgrim Terrace
- 24). Marion Community Clinics
- 25). Mental Health Association of Santa Barbara
- 26). Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- 27). Santa Barbara County Public Works
- 28). Santa Barbara County Transit
- 29). Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District
- 30). Santa Maria Association for the Retarded
- 31). Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People
- 32). SMOOTH
- 33). Solvang Lutheran Home
- 34). Transitions – Mental Health Association
- 35). Valley Haven Senior Social Day Care
- 36). Work Training Programs

ATTACHMENT #2

**Letter of Notification
Santa Maria Area Transit**



■ 260 North San Antonio Road., Suite B ■ Santa Barbara, CA ■ 93110
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April 11, 2006

Mr. Joe Rye
Manager, Santa Maria Area Transit
Suite 101
110 s. Pine Street
Santa Maria, CA 93458

Dear Mr. Rye:

Thank you for submitting a 5310 grant application for the 2006-2007 funding cycle. SMAT received scores of 69 for vehicles one and two and 82 for the mobile radio and GPS equipment. SMAT's application was evaluated using the Quantitative Scoring Criteria and Project Rating Form provided by CalTrans, Office of Specialized Transit and Procurement. Please refer to the enclosed Adopted Regional Priority List regarding a summary of your application's score.

If you feel that the scoring criteria have been incorrectly applied to your application, you have the right to appeal your score to the Santa Barbara county Association of Governments Board at the April 20, 2006 Board meeting. You may send written comments to Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, 260 N. San Antonio Rd., Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, or, appear before the Board at the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, County Administration Building, 4th Floor, 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara on April 20th. Remote testimony from the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria is also available.

Once the Board has adopted the Regional Priority List, staff will forward all necessary documents to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) Statewide Evaluation Committee (SEC) for review to develop a prioritized statewide list of projects. This list will be adopted as the Elderly and Disabled Transit Program for 2006-2007 by the CTC, with projects being funded in priority order until available funds have been utilized. Funding for the projects is expected to be released in or around October 2006 upon approval of the Program of Projects by the Federal Transit Administration.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your 5310 grant application, the assigned scores, or the process, please contact me or Sarkes Khacheck.

Sincerely,

Michael Powers
Deputy Director

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County