

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom (NF) FTA Funding Programs

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 6A

STAFF CONTACT: Sarkes Khachek, Michael Powers

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive report on Federal Fiscal Year 2006 JARC/New Freedom Grant Applications received and evaluated by SBCAG and forwarded to Division of Mass Transportation, Caltrans, for selection.
- B. Receive status report on application submitted by SBCAG to fund preparation of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Santa Barbara County.

SUMMARY:

The JARC (Section 5316) and New Freedom (Section 5317) programs provide federal funding for capital and operating costs associated with service for low-income, elderly and persons with disabilities. SBCAG received three applications for Fiscal Year 2006 which have been scored by a local review committee composed of SBCAG and Caltrans District 5 staff. Applicants included Community Partners in Caring, Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT) and SBCAG Traffic Solutions. The local scores have been forwarded to Caltrans Headquarters for statewide selection process for the Fiscal Year 2006 funding cycle. Staff is optimistic that since the cost of all projects amount to less than the individual and cumulative allocations for each funding program for each area all projects have a reasonable chance of funding.

Starting in Federal Fiscal Year 2007, SAFETEA-LU will require an annual statewide competitive selection process with all projects funded by JARC and New Freedom be derived from a locally developed human services transportation coordination plan. SBCAG will be developing this plan in coordination with SBCTAC and representatives of public, private, nonprofit transportation and human services providers and the general public. SBCAG has submitted an application for funding the preparation of the coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan for Santa Barbara County with scheduled kick-off meeting in November and final adoption in May 2007.

DISCUSSION:

A. Federal Fiscal Year 2006 JARC/New Freedom Grant Applications

For both JARC and New Freedom funding programs, apportionments were determined by population size of urbanized and rural areas. The following are Santa Barbara County's target apportionments for Fiscal Year 2006 as provided by Caltrans Headquarters:

FFY 2006 Apportionments for Santa Barbara County

UZA	JARC	New Freedom	Total by UZA
Lompoc	\$32,952	\$19,936	\$52,888
Santa Barbara	\$164,495	\$99,519	\$264,014
Santa Maria	\$80,426	\$48,657	\$129,083
Total by Funding Program	\$277,873	\$168,112	\$445,985

Since there are only small urbanized and non-urbanized areas within Santa Barbara County, Caltrans will administer the JARC and New Freedom funding programs for Santa Barbara County. Funding will be distributed through a statewide selection process.

A review committee comprised of staff from regional transportation planning agencies (RTPA's), MPO's, Consolidated Transportation Service Agencies (CTSA's), transit agencies and social services agencies will review, score and rank the project applications at the Statewide level.

By the August 15 deadline, applications from Community Partners In Caring, Santa Maria Area Transit, and Traffic Solutions were received by SBCAG. Applications were reviewed and scored by SBCAG staff with the assistance of Caltrans District 5 staff. The SBCAG review of the Traffic Solutions application (Traffic Solutions is a component of SBCAG) is somewhat irrelevant because Caltrans conducts an independent review and scoring of the applications, much like the Section 5310 process. The following are the local scores for applications received:

Agency	Project Summary	Funding Program	Funding Requested	Score
Community Partners in Caring	Volunteer Driver Program	New Freedom	\$25,000	65
Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT)	Nighttime and Saturday Service	JARC	\$67,500	62
Traffic Solutions	Reverse Commute Vanpool Program	JARC	\$30,000	89

All projects were submitted for costs associated with program operations. Project applications have been submitted to the Caltrans Division of Mass Transportation for a statewide competitive review ranking. A final list of selected projects will be published and submitted to FTA for funding. SBCAG is optimistic that since the cost of all projects amount to less than the individual and cumulative allocations for each funding program for each area all projects have a reasonable chance of funding. What happens to the funds that are not programmed for eligible projects during this federal fiscal year (Oct. 2006 to Sept. 2007)? The allocation for each urbanized area is carried forward to the next two funding cycles. Funds not programmed and delivered within the consecutive three year period is lost to the region.

The following is Caltrans timeline for administering the Fiscal Year 2006 applications:

Application Review due to Caltrans HQ - September 8

Recommendations by Caltrans Approved by FTA - September 30

B. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Santa Barbara County

Starting in Federal Fiscal Year 2007, SAFETEA-LU will require an annual statewide competitive selection process in which all projects funded by JARC and New Freedom must be derived from a locally developed human services transportation coordination plan. The Plan must be approved by SBCAG by June, 2007. This plan will be developed by SBCAG in coordination with SBCTAC and representatives of public, private, nonprofit transportation and human services providers and the general public.

The Coordinated Public Transit Plan (CPTP) will help identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with limited incomes, and provide a strategy for meeting these needs and help prioritize services through SAFETEA-LU's programs.

SBCAG has submitted an application for Fiscal Year 2006 to receive funding for the development of the plan. Upon receiving authorization to proceed from Caltrans Headquarters, SBCAG will schedule a kick-off meeting with representatives in November 2006 followed by monthly meetings.

The CPTP Development schedule is as follows:

October 2006: SBCAG receives authorization to proceed from Caltrans Headquarters

November 2006: Kickoff meeting with Advisory Committee, monthly meetings thereafter

December 2006: Inventory Element complete and under review

February 2007: Public meetings on inventory and priority setting

March 2007: Draft Plan reviewed by Public and SBCAG Board, Draft Plan reviewed during IPG Meeting

May 2007: Final Plan adopted by SBCAG Board

COMMITTEE REVIEW: None

Additional Information Available

The three JARC and New Freedom Grant Applications submitted to SBCAG and Caltrans, Division of Mass Transportation, and, the summary project rating sheets prepared by SBCAG are available upon request.

The SBCAG Application for funding the Consolidated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan that was submitted to Caltrans, Division of Mass Transportation is also available upon request.