



**DATE:** FEBRUARY 9, 2017

**MEMO TO:** TRANSIT OPERATORS COMMITTEE

**FROM:** JUDITH JOHNDUFF, PROGRAMMING ANALYST

**SUBJECT:** FY 2016/17 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP)  
ALLOCATION

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Recommend the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) program the FY 2016/17 VCTC apportionment of \$52,303 of Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) apportionment to the East/West County Connector Bus Service Project, and \$325,442 for the Camarillo/Oxnard Bus Service Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the approval of the FY 2014/15 state budget, the Legislature passed a budget trailer bill directing the distribution of cap-and-trade funds. There are several transit-related programs including LCTOP (Transit Operations), Transit Capital, Affordable Housing, and Sustainable Communities. All of the programs are competitive grant programs with the exception of LCTOP which provides ongoing apportionments based on the State Transit Assistance formula. Although the LCTOP program emphasizes expanded transit operations, funds can also be spent on capital costs that can be shown to facilitate expanded transit service. It should be noted that at least half of the funds to a jurisdiction must be spent on service benefitting economically disadvantaged communities as defined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) using a method that takes into account economic as well as pollution factors.

The amount of FY 16/17 LCTOP funds to be programmed at VCTC's discretion is \$406,573. This amount includes the Ventura County population formula funds which is \$377,745 as well as the Metrolink revenue formula amount which is \$28,828. Allocation requests for FY 16/17 LCTOP funds are due to Caltrans by March 31, 2017.

**DISCUSSION:**

At prior VCTC Commission meetings, the Commission approved programing a total of \$1,099,072, equal to VCTC's apportionments for the first two years of LCTOP (FY 14/15 and FY 15/16) for the purchase of a bus and operation of the Oxnard/Camarillo Employment Connector Service. In April of 2016, in order to pay for the Oxnard/Camarillo bus in advance of receiving the FY 15/16 LCTOP funds, the Commission approved using \$334,959 of CMAQ funds planned

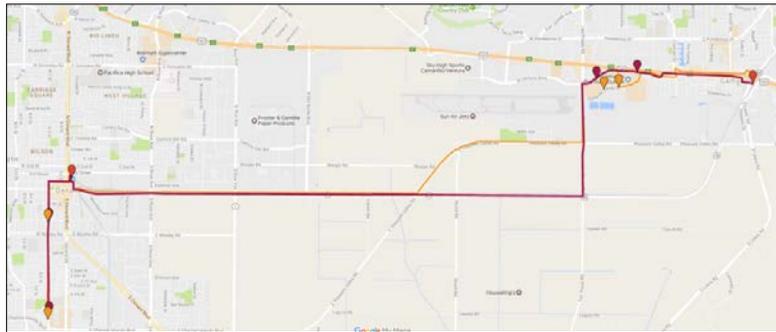
for East/West Connector project. To keep the East/West Connector project whole, the Commission approved shifting an equal amount (\$334,959) of FY 15/16 LCTOP funds (that would have been used for the Oxnard/Camarillo project) to purchase a single bus for the East/West Connector project.

VCTC's CMAQ application for the East/West Bus Line proposed a local match for operations of \$52,303 for the first year of service, with the match to be shared among East County cities. Staff recommends that \$52,303 of the FY 2016/17 LCTOP apportionment be used to relieve these cities of the need to provide that match. Staff recommends that the remainder of the FY 2016/17 funds, \$325,442, be programmed for continuing the Oxnard/Camarillo line.

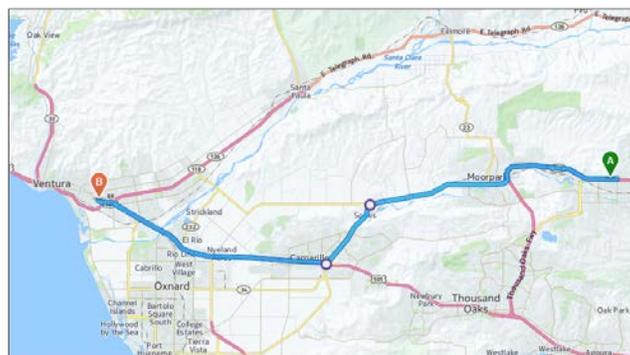
The buses have been purchased for both routes and VCTC began operating the Oxnard/Camarillo Employment Connector Service in October of 2016.

The two routes are described below:

**Oxnard/Camarillo Employment Connector Service:** This service provides access from the economically disadvantaged communities in South and East Oxnard to employment centers in Camarillo. The service provides 4 round trips a day 7 days a week originating in South Oxnard (at the "C" Street Transfer Center) and the Oxnard Transportation Center (OTC), and then to the Camarillo Outlet mall. From there the service goes to the Camarillo Metrolink Station.



**East/West County Connector Service:** This project would establish a new route that provides a direct connection from East Ventura County to West Ventura County, using the Highway 118-Highway 34 corridor. The route is will utilize two buses and traverse Simi Valley, Moorpark, Somis, Camarillo, Oxnard and Ventura. The requested funding will enable the provision of weekday service from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm, with 90 minute headways or 8 round trips per day.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

- LCTOP was created to provide operating and capital assistance to transit agencies with the goal of funding new or expanded service that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improves mobility. Both the Oxnard-Camarillo Employment Connector Service and the East-West Connector Service meet the goals of the LCTOP program. Therefore, staff recommends programming \$52,303 of VCTC's Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) apportionment to the East/West County Connector Bus Service Project, and \$325,442 for the Camarillo/Oxnard Bus Service Project.