



**DATE:** MAY 11, 2017

**MEMO TO:** TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

**FROM:** PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2017/18 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Approve the Program of Projects (POP) for federal transit operating, planning and capital assistance for FY 2017/18 (Attachment).

**BACKGROUND:**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that the public be provided an opportunity to review transit projects proposed to be funded with federal dollars. As the designated recipient of federal transit funds, the VCTC is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a POP which lists projects to be funded with federal funds in each of the four urban areas in Ventura County. Thus, VCTC prepares the POP using separate programs for the Oxnard/Ventura, Thousand Oaks/Moorpark, Simi Valley, and Camarillo urbanized areas, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

In early summer of each year VCTC approves a draft POP which can be used as the basis for a TIP amendment to incorporate the projects into the TIP. The Final POP, to be adopted in September, could incorporate changes based on adopted transit operator budgets, or other updated funding figures, such as the final adopted Metrolink budget.

Last month VCTC staff provided the transit operators with tables showing the calculation of estimated revenues and expenses for the four urbanized areas. That information was discussed at last month's Committee meeting. The transit operators were then to provide proposed programs based on the amounts of funds shown in the tables as being available for each operator.

Under VCTC's adopted policy, the estimated amount to be generated under the FTA formula by each transit operator's service provides the target amount for that operator's program. For agencies providing local bus service, the programming target includes the amount generated under the formula for the jurisdiction's population, after subtracting out a proportional share of costs for countywide planning activities. As discussed last month at TRANSCOM the countywide planning totals \$1,547,000, a reduced number for this year only due to the application of prior unexpended carryover funds.

It should be noted that the estimated FY 2017/18 funding is based on the amount authorized in the FAST Act reauthorization. Should the adopted FY 2018 Federal transportation budget be lower than these estimates, it will be necessary to make changes to the Program of Projects. (The preliminary information is that the FY 2016/17 budget about to be passed provides the full authorized amount.)

For the last few years, rather than include a small amount of Section 5339 funds in each operator's program based on what they generate, the POP swapped each local operator's share of 5339 funds with 5307 funds generated by VCTC Intercity Bus, thus assigning all Section 5339 funds to the VISTA capital leases. However, FTA recently restricted the use of 5339 funds to exclude maintenance, and since VCTC has purchased its own buses although it can still use 5339 funds for capital leases it can use less 5339 than before. Therefore, for this year staff is proposing that all the Oxnard/Ventura 5339 funds be used by Gold Coast, with the Oxnard/Ventura funds generated by VCTC bus service swapped to Gold Coast, while VCTC will continue swapping 5339 from the other operators. Thus, in the Simi Valley and Camarillo areas, the countywide planning contribution is reduced by an amount equal to the area's 5339 apportionment, and VCTC receives the entire 5339 apportionment. In the Thousand Oaks/Moorpark area a portion of the 5307 funds allocated to VCTC Intercity are swapped with the 5339 funds generated by Thousand Oaks and Moorpark.

At this time the POP does not include Section 5310 funds for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, nor does it include the Section 5307 funds generated through the formula for the Jobs Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) program. Later this year VCTC will do its competitive project selection process for these programs, and then publish a supplemental POP containing the selected Section 5310 and JARC projects. Since JARC is now consolidated with 5307, the Oxnard/Ventura and Thousand Oaks/Moorpark area show small unprogrammed balances. These unprogrammed balances also reflect a small amount of carryover.

As was discussed at last month's TRANSCOM meeting, due to the end of the Proposition 1B Transit Security program, VCTC can no longer point to the Proposition 1B expenditures as justifying an exemption from the federal requirement to set aside 1% of large urban 5307 apportionments for security. Staff is proposing that the Automatic Vehicle Locator item be counted as the required qualifying security expenditure.

Subsequent to the TRANSCOM meeting, staff will publish the POP for public notice, and will present the POP to the VCTC for Public Hearing and approval at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.