

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 3, 2007

SUBJECT: Rural Transit Funds (RTF) Call for Projects - FY 2008/09

SUMMARY

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments is issuing a "Call-for-Projects" for the 2008/09 Rural Transit Funds (RTF) grant program. The main purpose of the Rural Transit Fund (RTF) program is to provide transit capital support in the non-urban areas of the county. These capital funds are available to service providers within the region that qualify as "non-urbanized" or rural public transit operators. For the 2008/09 RTF cycle, approximately \$497,000 is available for competitive distribution. **All RTF project applications are to be submitted to SLOCOG by Monday December 3rd 2007.**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff: Approve Monday, December 3, 2007, as the application deadline for the 2008/09 RTF cycle.

SSTAC/TTAC/CTAC:

DISCUSSION

Since 2003, SLOCOG has programmed all Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds from the "Non-Urbanized Area Program" (i.e. FTA 5311 formula) to Regional Transit Authority (RTA) for operations. In exchange, SLOCOG allocates on a competitive basis a similar amount of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds that *would have* been used by RTA for operations. This process streamlines the cumbersome federal requirements of procuring vehicles for the smaller operations. Eligible projects for RTF funding must be consistent with the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) policies related to public transportation and recommendations from the most recent audits and Short Range Transit Plans (SRTP).

Under the Rural Transit Fund Policies and Procedures, jurisdictions (Cities and Counties) within the region that qualify as "non-urbanized" or rural transit operators are eligible to receive RTF funding. The following transit agencies qualify under these guidelines:

- Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and SLO County
- South County Area Transit (SCAT)
- City of Morro Bay

2007/08 RTF Projects in Review

During the 2007/08 RTF cycle, \$478K was programmed. (Due to a programming inconsistency between RTA's 5311 application (\$560K) and the amount SLOCOG will exchange for TDA (\$478K), the maintenance facility project will be reduced by \$82K in Exhibit A; however, there will be no change in the total amount allocated to RTA, only an internal shift in funding). The projects approved for funding were:

- \$52,899 to replace one South Bay Dial-a-Ride vehicle
- \$303,991 for Regional Transit Authority (RTA) maintenance facility tenant improvements
- \$25,000 for RTA administration by prior RTF agreement
- \$1,200 for back up base station and two vehicle radios for Morro Bay DAR and trolley services
- \$3,600 in equipment and tools for Morro Bay's transit mechanics to service vehicles
- \$52,000 for Morro Bay replacement DAR vehicle
- \$5,000 for emergency power lighting and other alternative communication systems for Morro Bay
- \$15,000 for SCAT bus stop amenities and service improvements and
- \$20,000 to fund one County spare trolley for the Avila Beach and Cambria Village Trolley

RTF Application Process

As with the previous cycle, an application and Fleet Plan Summary (required for vehicle procurements) will be electronically sent to eligible recipients; a separate form should be used for each project. Additionally, **a resolution from the local policy board and a proposed schedule must be submitted as part of the application.** All RTF applications are due to SLOCOG by Monday December 3rd 2007 at 4:00 p.m. (electronic versions accepted, must be followed by originals).

Please contact Tim Gillham at 781-1520 or tgillham@slocog.org for additional information.

Tim Gillham prepared this staff report