



MAY 10, 2018

AGENDA ITEM # 11

NEIGHBORHOOD SHUTTLE PROGRAM AND PILOT PROJECTS

Action Requested: Approve Staff Recommendation

Key Staff: Norman Hom, Executive Director

Recommendation

Authorize the Executive Director to execute three-year grant agreements providing funding to:

1. Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) in the amount of \$12.0 million for the operation of ten microtransit pilot routes in Sacramento County; and
2. Paratransit, Inc. (Paratransit) in the amount of \$400,000 for the *Moving Youth to Jobs* Civic Lab pilot project.

Background Information

The Measure A Transportation Expenditure Plan includes the development of a neighborhood shuttle grant program to promote the development or expansion of shuttle routes in residential and commercial areas throughout Sacramento County that have no—or infrequent—transit service. The STA sets aside \$1 million per year for this purpose and will have a total of \$9.2 million (including interest) accumulated as of July 1, 2018. Additional regular allocations and interest revenue will bring the total amount available to launch and fund the Neighborhood Shuttle Program for the first three years to approximately \$12.4 million.

Last month, your Board received presentations on 12 proposals requesting a total of \$14.04 million. Ten of the proposed projects were *SmaRT Rides* proposed by SacRT (*SmaRT Ride* is SacRT's name for flexible-route, on-demand transit service utilizing smaller, more neighborhood-friendly buses, also commonly known as 'microtransit'). The other two projects are from the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' Civic Lab.

Discussion

Staff proposes funding for the *First Mile/Last Mile Connections in Suburban Areas* Civic Lab project be postponed for consideration to the next funding cycle. SacRT has embarked on a major redesign of its transit network—a process called *SacRT Forward*—which may continue into the next 2 to 3 years and will result in a new network of bus routes based on community input and data analysis. First mile/last mile gaps will likely change as a result so it makes sense to wait until the transit network redesign is completed and implemented.

The other proposed pilot projects are all recommended for funding in this initial funding cycle, including the ten microtransit routes proposed by SacRT and the *Moving Youth to Jobs* project from SACOG's Civic Lab, as shown below. Each pilot project is consistent with the Neighborhood Shuttle Program's objective of promoting transit service for the un- or underserved.

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT — \$12 MILLION

- **Orangevale | Antelope | Historic Folsom Light Rail Station Smart Ride** which generally serves the Orangevale area and parts of Fair Oaks with a connection to light rail in Folsom
- **Franklin Blvd | South Sacramento West Smart Ride** which generally serves the South Sacramento West area around Franklin Blvd. and including Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center, and Methodist Hospital¹
- **Downtown Sacramento | Midtown | Old Sacramento Smart Ride** which generally serves the area of Downtown Sacramento, Old Sacramento, Midtown, McKinley Park, Mercy General Hospital, and Broadway¹
- **Rancho Cordova Smart Ride** which generally serves the Rancho Cordova area and its major employment centers
- **Arden/Arcade Smart Ride** which generally serves the Arden/Arcade area, including Arden Fair Mall, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center on Morse Avenue, Point West, and Cal Expo
- **Sac State Smart Ride** which generally serves the campus of the California State University, Sacramento
- **Carmichael | American River College Smart Ride** which generally serves the Carmichael area and the American River College with connections to the light rail station at Watt Avenue and Interstate 80
- **South Sacramento East | Farm to Future Smart Ride** which generally serves the eastern portion of south Sacramento and the future Farm to Future affordable housing development¹
- **Folsom Smart Ride** which generally serves the Folsom area²
- **Elk Grove Smart Ride** which generally serves the Elk Grove area²

Actual service areas, days and hours of service are adjustable by SacRT during the implementation period.

PARATRANSIT, INC. — \$400,000

- **Workforce Transportation for Youth and Young Adults** (a.k.a., Moving Youth to Jobs) which will provide travel and mobility training and transportation service(s) for youth and young adults to internships and other employments opportunities

To meet expected cash availability, some of the microtransit routes would have to be phased into service over the course of the Program's first year. As a result, some of the pilot routes would be limited to slightly less than the full 30 months of operation requested. However, the overall impact of the phasing is small and all the microtransit projects will be funded. Importantly, all Neighborhood Shuttle Program services will be in operation during the critical period leading up to the November 2020 general election on which continued funding for these projects may be dependent.³

Attached is a likely-scenario cashflow analysis to support the staff recommendation. The projects may not necessarily be implemented in accordance to the timeline or in the order shown but STA staff will continually coordinate with the project sponsors to ensure timely implementation of all approved projects.

Attachments

¹Revised since the April Board meeting.

²Work continues on defining these microtransit projects. Service area and days and hours of service are to be determined.

³The Neighborhood Shuttle Program promotes new or expanded shuttle routes through short- or limited-term funding for pilot projects, feasibility studies and experimental trials; it does not have sufficient funding to provide long-term or ongoing funding for permanent shuttle routes. The STA Governing Board may elect to continue funding on a limited-basis for selected routes or projects, depending upon available resources.