



**City Council Meeting Date:** May 4, 2021

**TO:** Jim Throop, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation/Transportation Administrator  
r\_fernbaugh@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolution No. 6401(21) Authorizing Staff to Apply for Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Funds from Caltrans, for Installation of a Photovoltaic (Solar) Renewable Energy System at the City Transit Operations Center and Fleet Maintenance Facility; and Approving Related Budget Appropriations

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**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6401(21), authorizing the City Manager, Public Works Director, Assistant Public Works Director or the Aviation/Transportation Administrator to execute and file the necessary documents for the purpose of obtaining Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds provided by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for a photovoltaic renewable energy system, and making related budget appropriations.

**Background:**

The LCTOP was created to provide operating and capital assistance for transit agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility, with a priority on serving disadvantaged communities. Approved projects will support new or expanded bus and rail service, expand intermodal transit facilities, and may include equipment acquisition, fueling, maintenance and other costs to operate those services or facilities, with each project reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The program is annually appropriated 5% of Cap and Trade funds per Senate Bill 862 (2014). The program is administered by Caltrans in coordination with California Air Resources Board and the State Controller's Office. Funding for LCTOP is distributed to regions and transit operators using State Transit Assistance Program formula.

**Discussion:**

LCTOP funding will be allocated under the State Transit Assistance Program formula to eligible agencies, with half of the funding allocated according to population formula to Regional Transportation Planning (RTP) Agencies and half to transit operators according to transit operator revenues. Funding allocated based on population will be assigned to projects in the region based on the local needs. Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), as Lompoc's RTP, will receive \$464,835 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 based on population. Eligible transit operators in Santa

Barbara County will also receive fare box-based revenue apportionments totaling approximately \$117,295.

The proposed LCTOP project is for the installation of a solar energy system as large as 225,000 kWh at the proposed Fleet Maintenance and Transit Operations Facility at 320 N. D Street.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The City is eligible for a small share of LCTOP funds annually during the term of the LCTOP by formula based on fare-box revenue and was also awarded \$112,450.40 of the FY 2020-21 funding allotted to SBCAG based on population. To receive FY 2020-21 LCTOP funds the City delivered the draft proposed Resolution No.6401(21) to Caltrans, on April 9, 2021.

In order to receive the funds, the City is required to submit an application each year and to follow certain guidelines, provide the necessary assurances, and submit various required documents.

The total anticipated funding available to the City from LCTOP for FY 2020-21 is \$113,431.40 comprised of \$981 based on fare box revenue and \$112,450.40 based on population. That funding is provided from LCTOP based on population and local fare box allocation (per Public Utilities Code section 99313 and 99314).

Resolution No. 6401(21) provides for the new estimated revenues and anticipated supplemental budget appropriation activity due to the City's participation in the LCTOP during FY 2020-21 in the amounts identified above. The LCTOP parameters were not fully available to the City at the time the Biennial Budget FYs 2019-21 was developed and the revenues and proposed expenses were not addressed at that time.

**Conclusion:**

Resolution No. 6401(21) authorizes the City Manager, Public Works Director, Assistant Public Works Director and the Aviation/Transportation Administrator to file and execute documents for the purpose of obtaining State Transit Assistance LCTOP funding provided by the California Department of Transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation/Transportation Administrator

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**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:**

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Michael W. Luther, P.E., Public Works Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6401(21)