



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

TO: Jim Throop, City Manager

FROM: Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation/Transportation Administrator
r_fernbaugh@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Approval of Agreement with Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to Allocate Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Funds from City of Lompoc Transit to SBCAG

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the attached Subrecipient Agreement with SBCAG to allocate up to \$400,000 in CARES Act funds to SBCAG for use by the Clean Air Express (CAE) program.

Background/Discussion:

SBCAG, is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Santa Barbara County, and is also responsible for operating the CAE commuter bus service. The CAE is in need of additional operating costs to replace lost fare revenue due to decreases in ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic. The three Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 funding recipients located within Santa Barbara County are eligible to receive federal aid from the FTA through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The City of Lompoc Transit (COLT) service is eligible to receive up to \$3,810,420 in FTA CARES Act funding to mitigate and respond to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

SBCAG has requested \$400,000 each in CARES Act funds for CAE operating costs from the three FTA 5307 recipients located in Santa Barbara County, which are the City of Lompoc, the City of Santa Maria and the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD). FTA CARES Act funds are only available to FTA 5307 recipients, but may be transferred to other subrecipients for eligible uses of those transit funds. The City of Santa Maria and SBMTD each agreed to contribute the requested funds to SBCAG. Many residents of the Lompoc area have used the CAE commuter bus service to travel to and from the Santa Barbara area.

Fiscal Impact:

Staff believes the transfer of \$400,000 of FTA CARES Act funds from the City to SBCAG for the CAE will have no negative financial impact on the City, and will rather be a benefit to the community. Staff does not anticipate that COLT will be able to claim the full \$3.8 million that FTA has made available to the City because COLT's COVID-19-related losses have been far less than \$3.8 million. Consequently, requesting \$400,000 in FTA funds to be passed through to SBCAG will not limit the City's ability to request full reimbursement from FTA for COLT's COVID-19-related losses.

Conclusion:

Approval of the Subrecipient agreement will allow the CAE, operated by SBCAG, to cover expenses for the service normally covered by fare box receipts.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Fernbaugh, Aviation/Transportation Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

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

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachment: Subrecipient Agreement