



Metro

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
April 16, 2008**

SUBJECT: FY 2008 FEDERAL SECTION 5310 RECOMMENDATIONS

**ACTION: APPROVE DELEGATION AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER**

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to:

- A. Certify that projects selected for funding under the Federal Section 5310 program are in compliance with our Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan; and
- B. Transmit project scoring recommendations to Caltrans.

ISSUE

SAFETEA-LU stipulates that Federal Section 5310 projects selected for funding must comply with a Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan"). Caltrans further stipulates that projects selected for funding must be certified that they comply with the Coordinated Plan and that a Board-adopted resolution is no longer required. On January 24, 2008, the Board approved the Los Angeles County Coordinated Plan. As such, staff requests that the Board delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to certify that those projects recommended for FY 2008 funding comply with the Coordinated Plan, and transmit the project scores to Caltrans.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The process of scoring and distributing Section 5310 funds is controlled by the California Transportation Commission (CTC). There is no opportunity for variation from one county to the next.

OPTIONS

The Board could decide to not delegate authority to the CEO thereby requiring staff to provide the recommended scores to the Board no later than the August 28, 2008 Board meeting. This option is not recommended since Caltrans no longer requires Board approval, thus providing staff with approximately two months additional time to work with applicants and review and score the applications.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Section 5310 program is a Federal grant program that is not available to fund our general expenses. There is no local match required from us. Each agency receiving funding provides the local match for its project(s).

BACKGROUND

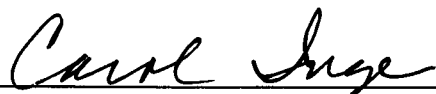
The Federal Section 5310 program is a statewide competitive capital grant program for private non-profit social service agencies and, under certain conditions, public agencies. Funds may be used to purchase accessible vans and buses, wheelchair lifts and restraints, radio and communications equipment, and computer hardware and software. Eligibility for these funds is limited to providers of services to the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The funds are distributed to states based on population and, in FY 2008, approximately \$12 million of Federal Section 5310 funds are expected to be available statewide. This year, Caltrans established June 2, 2008 as the date when applications are due to us, and August 29, 2008 when applications and scores are due to Caltrans in Sacramento.

Each year our role in this grant process is to assist agencies in the preparation of their grant applications, establish a Local Review Committee (LRC), score the applications, forward the scores and applications to Caltrans, and program the requests into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Representatives of the LRC include our staff and members of the Local Transit Systems Subcommittee (LTSS) and Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). The LRC members represent providers of services to seniors and persons with disabilities, users of transportation services, non-profit and for-profit transportation service providers, and us. The LRC uses statewide criteria developed by Caltrans to score the applications. The criteria specifies the scores possible in each of the following five categories: 1) need for the requested equipment; 2) client need for the agency's transportation services; 3) agency's transportation effectiveness; 4) agency's transportation management ability; and 5) coordination of transportation-related activities with other agencies.

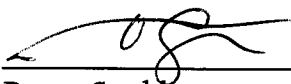
NEXT STEPS

If the Board approves staff's recommendation, we will proceed to process Federal Section 5310 grant applications and request the CEO to certify that projects selected for funding comply with our Coordinated Plan. Staff will transmit the scoring recommendations to Caltrans.

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