



Metro

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

June 17, 2009

SUBJECT: FEDERAL SECTION 5310 RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION: APPROVE DELEGATION AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION

Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for FY 2009 and future years to certify that all Federal Section 5310 projects selected for funding comply with Federal program requirements and annually transmit the scoring recommendations to Caltrans.

ISSUE

Caltrans requires us to annually review Section 5310 applications, establish agency eligibility, score the applications and submit a list of prioritized projects that compete statewide for funding and are approved by the California Transportation Commission.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The annual 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 annually provide the recommended scores to the Board. 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 an annual Federal grant program that is not available to fund our general expenses. No local match is required from us. Each agency receiving funding provides the local match for its project(s). The funding for management of this program is included in the FY 10 budget in cost center #4240 and project #405511. The source of funds for this activity is Prop C and TDA Admin and is not eligible for bus and rail operating or capital expenditures.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Section 5310 program is an annual 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 that meet the requirements and conditions of Title 49 U.S.C. 5310 (a) (2) provides that a State may allocate apportioned funds to a private non-profit organization if public transportation service is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate. Title 49 U.S.C. also allows public agencies to apply for funds if there are not any non-profit organizations readily available to provide the proposed service. Caltrans also requires that applicants are notified of their regional score prior to us finalizing the Regional Priority List and provided information regarding the local appeal process. Eligible applicants are able to appeal their score to a Local Review Committee (LRC) for Los Angeles County. The federal government distributes funds to states annually based on population. We expect approximately \$12 million of FY 2009 Federal Section 5310 funds to be available statewide. Caltrans annually establishes a date when applications are due to us, and a date when applications and scores are due to Caltrans in Sacramento. This year's applications are due to us on June 5, 2009 and to Caltrans on September 4, 2009. SAFETEA-LU stipulates that Federal Section 5310 projects annually selected for funding must comply with a Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan"). Our Board approved the Los Angeles County Coordinated Plan in January 2008.

Each year, our role in the grant process is to assist agencies in the preparation of their grant applications, establish an LRC for Los Angeles County, score the applications, notify applicants of their regional score, advise applicants of their ability to appeal, and forward the Regional Priority List with scores, applications and certifications to Caltrans. Using our scores as input, Caltrans prepares the final scores and submits them to the CTC. Once approved, we 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). LRC members represent providers of services to seniors and persons with disabilities, users of transportation services, and non-profit and for-profit transportation service providers. The LRC uses statewide criteria developed by Caltrans to score 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

With the Board's approval, staff will request that the CEO certify that FY 2009 Section 5310 projects selected for funding comply with our Coordinated Plan and other requirements as mentioned above, and transmit scoring recommendations to Caltrans. Staff will annually submit all future-year Section 5310 projects to the CEO for certification and transmittal of scoring recommendations to Caltrans.

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