



DATE: March 2, 2012  
TO: STA Board  
FROM: Liz Niedziela, Transit Program Manager/Analyst  
RE: Solano Coordinated Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP)/Transit Corridor Study/Solano Ridership Survey and Analysis

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**Background:**

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) Board authorized the submittal of a letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for a Funding Request in the amount of \$140,000 to prepare a Coordinated Short Range Transit Plan for Solano County.

This funding proposal was for the development of a Coordinated Short Range Transportation Plan (SRTP) for all Solano County Transit Operators. The transit operators that will be included in this Plan are Solano County Transit (SolTrans), Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST), Vacaville City Coach, Dixon Read-Ride and Rio Vista Delta Breeze. The Plan will include a dedicated subsection for each transit operator covering their requirements of the SRTP.

This proposal also included County Level Coordination analyzing two specific transit issues/priorities areas in Solano County. The first specific area is to update the I-80/I-680/I-780/State Route (SR) 12 Transit Corridor Study. Updating the Transit Corridor Plans will provide guidance and coordination for future investments. Specifically, the coordinated plan will address SolanoExpress bus service and integrate the planned Express Lanes and Regional Freeway Performance Initiative on I-80 and I-680. The Transit Corridor Study will not only address transit services, but also update the facilities and connections needed to support these services into the future.

A specific additional area to analyze is transit connectivity to the colleges in Solano County. The colleges would include Touro University, Maritime Academy, and the three Solano Community College campuses in Solano County (Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo).

In addition, MTC has requested the Coordinated SRTP address four specific areas of coordination:

1. Different Fare Structure and Discounts/Standard Fare Structure/Fare Reconciliation;
2. Separate ADA Contractors, Eligibility and Rules/Joint Contracting/Eligibility Determination of ADA Paratransit; (to be address in the Solano Mobility Management Plan)
3. Enhanced Transit Coordination of Capitol Planning; and
4. Enhanced Coordination of Transit Service Planning

The scope of work for the I-80/I-680/I-780/SR 12 Transit Corridor Study has been presented previously to the Consortium for input and approved by the STA Board in January 2011 (Attachment A). At their December 2011, the TAC and Consortium approved the recommendation to forward the scope of work for the Solano Coordinated SRTP to the STA Board and the STA Board approved the scope of work in January 2012 along with the Ridership Study (Attachment B).

**Discussion:**

STA plans to contract with one consultant team for the development of the Solano Coordinated SRTP and include with MTC requested areas of coordination and the Transit Corridor Study update. The consultant will do an analysis on each transit operator in Solano County in the SRTP. The SRTP scope of work needed to be enhanced to meet MTC's recommended area of coordination (Attachment C). This foundation will provide the consultant team a strong groundwork for the Transit Corridor Study.

STA staff is recommending three items. The first is for the STA Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with MTC for \$140,000 of funding to develop the Coordinated SRTP including the Enhanced Coordination that MTC has recommended. The agreement has not yet been received by STA, but MTC has approved the funding and STA staff anticipates an agreement by the month of March.

The second item is to forward a recommendation to the STA Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the Coordinated SRTP including the Enhanced Coordination and the Transit Corridor Study. By hiring one consultant team to conduct both plans, this will improve efficiency for data gathering and the individual SRTPs will be a good foundation in conducting the Transit Corridor Study.

The third item is to forward a recommendation to the STA Board to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for the Solano County Ridership Survey and Analysis. The Ridership Survey and Analysis will be used to help calculate the new Intercity Funding Agreement formula and the data and analysis will also be available earlier to the consultant team conducting the Coordinated SRTP and Transit Corridor Study. The STA staff released the Solano County Ridership Survey and Analyst Request for Proposal (RFP) February 16, 2012 and expects to retain a consultant team by late March subject to the March 14<sup>th</sup> STA Board approval.

STA staff released a Request for Qualification (RFQ) to establish a Pre-Qualified List of Consultants for Project Management services to assist STA staff in several studies and plans this fiscal year. This includes the Solano Coordinated SRTP and Transit Corridor Study. STA plans to have a project manager on board in March to assist with the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) after STA has received an executed funding agreement from MTC with STA Board approval. Minor changes and edits may be made to the scope of works to provide better clarification.

The Consortium requested that the Enhanced Coordination Scope of Work be amended to include a Limited English Plan (LEP) under 6.b in the Scope of Work for the Enhanced Coordination. On February 29, 2012, the Consortium and the STA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved forwarding the recommendations as stated below.

**Fiscal Impact:**

State Transit Assistance Funds (STAF) has been approved by the STA Board to develop the Transit Corridor Study in the amount not-to exceed \$150,000. MTC is in the process of approving \$140,000 in funding to develop the Coordination SRTP. The total amount of available funding is \$290,000 to complete these two studies. The MTC agreement for funding is expected to be executed in March 2012 after STA Board approval. STAF, in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000 has been approved by the STA Board for the Ridership Survey and Analysis.

**Recommendation:**

Forward a recommendation to the STA Board to authorize the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into an agreement with MTC for \$140,000 to develop the Solano Coordinated SRTP including Enhanced Coordination;
2. Amend the Scope of Work for the Enhanced Coordination to include a Limited English Plan (LEP) under Item 6.b;
3. Enter into a contract for the Solano Coordinated SRTP and Transit Corridor Study for an amount not-to-exceed \$290,000; and
4. Enter into a contract for the Solano County Ridership Survey and Analysis for an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.

Attachments:

- A. Approved Scope of Work for Transit Corridor Study for I-80/I-680/I-780/SR 12
- B. Approved of Scope Work for Coordinated SRTP
- C. Amended Scope of Work for Enhanced Coordination

D.