



DATE: September 17, 2013
TO: SolanoExpress Intercity Transit Consortium
FROM: Matt Tuggle, Solano County
RE: Solano County Intercity Paratransit Service Contract

Background:

On July 12, 2013, the Solano Transportation Authority, the local transit agencies, and Solano County entered into an MOU to fund a new taxi-based intercity paratransit service. The new service will provide trips to both ambulatory and non-ambulatory riders with accessible vans, where the existing taxi scrip service only provides trips to ambulatory riders. As the contract administering agency, Solano County is currently preparing to advertise for a professional services contract which will provide the intercity paratransit services. A trip cost per mile will be solicited. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is in the draft stages of development, with a target release date in October.

Discussion:

On September 12, a meeting was held to discuss provisions of the service and general contents of the draft RFP. In order to reach a final draft RFP and contract budget, the fare structure, days of service, hours of service, and other trip limitation requirements must be determined.

The intercity paratransit service contract is proposed to require operation six days per week, except on holidays currently observed by the County. Hours of operation for the service are proposed Monday through Friday from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm. Hours of operation for Saturday are proposed from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A tiered fare structure is proposed for the new service during regular operating hours. Three tiers have been proposed depending on the hours of operation. Tier 1 fare would require a 25% farebox (rider-paid fare) and would operate from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Tier 2 fare would require a 50% farebox and would operate from 7:00 am to 8:59 am and 5:01 pm to 7:00 pm Monday through Friday as well as Saturday service. Tier 3 fare would require a 75% farebox and would operate from 5:00 am to 6:59 am and 7:01 pm to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday. Per the MOU, these farebox percentages may be adjusted in the future at the discretion of the partner agencies (contract award, mid-year budget reviews, fiscal year closeout, etc.).

To be guaranteed a trip, riders must call one day in advance. Same day trip requests will be at the contractor's option and require 75% farebox. Service during off-hours and holidays may be provided at the contractor's option, but the rider would pay 100% of the trip cost.

A maximum number of 16 one-way trips per month is recommended for riders to qualify for subsidy under Tiers 1 through 3. When riders exceed 16 one-way trips per month, it is

recommended that the rider be responsible for paying 100% of the trip cost, though service would still be provided during regular hours of service.

The majority of the recommendations listed above were discussed and agreed to in the September 12, 2013 meeting held at Solano County offices with the majority of agency partners to the MOU in attendance.

Fiscal Impact:

The new service contract will be funded with County and local transit operators TDA, two federal New Freedom grants, and passenger fares. Balancing the farebox and operating revenues against the service costs will ensure that the service is sustainable. Farebox adjustments by the partner agencies could be made during the life of the new contract, as necessary.

The first two years of the new service will have an estimated budget of \$1,300,000 (per year) from the following:

- 1) Solano County TDA: \$430,000
- 2) Partner Agency TDA: \$300,000
- 3) New Freedom Grants: \$150,000
- 4) Rider Farebox: \$420,000

Balancing the farebox and operating revenues against the service costs will ensure that the service is sustainable. Farebox adjustments by the partner agencies will be made during the life of the new contract, as necessary. There is no fiscal impact to the STA budget from the service.

Recommendation:

Provide a recommendation to the County of Solano that the new intercity paratransit contract contain the following:

1. Farebox Tier 1 of 25%, Tier 2 of 50%, and Tier 3 of 75%;
2. Required days of service to be Monday through Saturday;
3. Required Hours of service 5am-9pm on Monday through Friday, and 9am-5pm on Saturday; and,
4. Maximum number of subsidized one-way trips per month capped at 16.