



DATE : March 29, 2021
TO: SolanoExpress Intercity Transit Consortium
FROM: Ron Grassi, Director of Programs
Brandon Thomson, Transit Mobility Coordinator
RE: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-Urbanized Area Program
(FTA Section 5311) Recommendation

Background:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5311) makes funding available to each state for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. Eligible applicants include public agencies, non-profits agencies, and American Indian tribes. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) annually develops the regional program of 5311. Solano Transportation Authority (STA) approves the 5311 projects for Solano County and submits them to MTC. MTC submits the San Francisco Region 5311 program to Caltrans, and then Caltrans submits a statewide program to FTA for approval.

The projects that have been previously funded from 5311 include operating assistance for Dixon Read-Ride, Rio Vista Delta Breeze, SolTrans for Route 85, and Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST) for Route 30. FTA Section 5311 funding has also been used for bus replacements for Rio Vista Delta Breeze and Dixon Read-Ride as well as funding swaps with the City of Dixon to assist Dixon and Solano County for their Intercity Bus Replacement shares and future bus replacements needs for Dixon. The City of Vacaville does not provide service in the rural area so they do not qualify for 5311 funding.

SolTrans has previously sought \$40,000 in operating assistance for Route 85 and FAST has historically received \$100,000 in operating assistance for Route 30. However, for the extensive time and effort that it takes to apply and report for the small amount of funding, SolTrans and FAST believe Dixon and Rio Vista would be better situated to utilize the 5311 funds to fulfill their operating and capital needs.

Discussion:

On March 24, 2021 STA staff received communication from MTC that the statewide Call for Projects for the FTA Section 5311 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) appropriations were released. The 5311 Call for Projects is due April 1, 2021(Attachment A).

Solano County was awarded \$417,629 in 5311 Funds for FY 2020-21 and STA staff has worked with Dixon Read-Ride and the Rio Vista Delta Breeze to assess their operating and capital needs. After these discussions, STA Staff is recommending Dixon receive \$237,260, all of which will be used for capital expenses. The City of Dixon will need to replace two cutaway buses and make electrification upgrades at their corporate yard.

After discussion with the Rio Vista Delta Breeze, STA staff is recommending Rio Vista receive \$180,369 and all will be used for capital improvements. Rio Vista is in need of replacing two cutaway buses and will need to make electrification upgrades at their corporation yard in order to be compliant with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation, which mandates all public transportation vehicles be 100% emission free by the year 2040.

On March 24, MTC approved commitments of CRRSAA funds for the Bay Area transit operators, including an allocation of \$560,977 in 5311 funds to Solano County. The amounts by operator were \$28,192 to Rio Vista, \$69,918 to Dixon, and \$462,867 to Vacaville. As Vacaville is not a recipient of 5311 funding, Dixon staff has agreed to swap the \$462,867 of 5311 funds for TDA. All of the MTC-committed 5311 funds will be used for operations.

MTC's March 24 memo (Attachment A) included an additional \$972,810 in CRRSAA 5311 funds for Solano County. Based on meetings with Dixon and Rio Vista staff regarding their transit funding needs, STA staff proposes \$648,540 for Dixon Read-Ride operations, and \$324,270 for Rio Vista Delta Breeze operations. This split of funds is roughly proportional to each agency's total operating costs.

The FY 2020-21 and CRRSAA 5311 allocation breakdown by jurisdiction can be found on Attachment B. STA staff worked with the two eligible rural operators and based on Dixon and Rio Vista's transit operating and capital needs, STA staff will submit the Project Justification Sheets to MTC on April 1, 2020.

On April 7, 2021 STA staff was informed by MTC that Solano County would be awarded a slight increase of \$15,660 in FTA 5311 funds for a total amount of \$433,289 (Revised Attachment B). Given this new development, STA worked with the Cities of Dixon and Rio Vista to develop a new funding plan. Based on these discussions the City of Dixon will receive \$246,279 and Rio Vista will receive \$187,010 and both cities will use the funds for capital improvements.

Additionally, MTC staff informed STA that Solano County's CRRSSA 5311 funds also increased as not all eligible 5311 operators elected to absorb the 5311 CRRSSA funds. Based on this information the City of Dixon will receive \$1,209,457 (\$28,132 above the initial projection) in 5311 CRRSSA funds and the City of Rio Vista will receive \$360,856 (\$8,394 above the initial projection). Both Cities will use these funds for operations.

At their March 2021 meetings, the STA Consortium and the STA TAC unanimously approved to forward the recommendation to the STA Board for approval at the April 14, 2021 meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

Federal Section 5311 estimated funding in the amount of ~~\$1,951,416~~ 2,003,602 is available to Solano County Transit Operators (Dixon and Rio Vista) that operate service in rural area.

Recommendation:

Approve the FTA 5311 programming for Dixon Read-Ride and Rio Vista Delta Breeze for FY's 2020-21 as outlined in Attachment B (REVISED).

Attachments:

- A. MTC Memo Dated March 24, 2020
- B. REVISED Solano County FY 2020-21 and CRRSAA 5311 Breakdown by Jurisdiction

REVISED

ATTACHMENT B

CRRSSA Funds 5311

Subrecipient	Project Description	Federal Share	Local Share (Excluding Toll Credit)	Toll Credit Amount (if any)	Net Project Cost
Solano Transportation Authority	City of Dixon Read- Ride Transit Operations	\$ 1,209,457	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,209,457
Solano Transportation Authority	Rio Vista Delta Breeze Transit Operations	\$ 360,856	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 360,856

Solano County 5311 Funds

Subrecipient	Project Description	Federal Share	Local Share (Excluding Toll Credit)	Toll Credit Amount (if any)	Net Project Cost
Solano Transportation Authority	City of Dixon Read- Ride Electrification Infrastructure	\$ 79,843	\$ 10,344	\$ -	\$ 90,187
Solano Transportation Authority	Rio Vista Delta Breeze Electrification Infrastructure	\$ 58,802	\$ 7,621	\$ -	\$ 66,423
Solano Transportation Authority	City of Dixon Read- Ride Vehicle Replacements	\$ 166,436	\$ 21,564	\$ -	\$ 188,000
Solano Transportation Authority	Rio Vista Delta Breeze Vehicle Replacements	\$ 128,208	\$ 21,792	\$ -	\$ 150,000