



DATE: September 13, 2018

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF FEDERAL CMAQ PROJECTS / PROGRAMMING OF CMAQ SHELF LIST AND/OR COST INCREASES

RECOMMENDATION:

- Review updated project schedule.
- Recommend VCTC approve the programming of the remaining transit CMAQ shelf list projects, consisting of \$2,669,142 for Gold Coast Transit.

DISCUSSION:

Based on the response to the request to agencies to provide CMAQ project statuses, staff has prepared the attached table showing the status of programmed projects. It appears that \$11,609,391 in CMAQ funds is scheduled to be obligated in FY 2018/19, leaving an estimated balance of \$7,262,695. The issue for consideration is that this balance is subject to a proportional share in the rescission scheduled in the FAST Act. The actual proportion of the unobligated balances to be rescinded will be based on the nationwide unobligated balance, which will not be known until that time.

For transit projects, the completion of a FTA Transfer removes the funds from the unobligated balance, thus lowering the balance and the amount that will be rescinded. According to VCTC's policy for the CMAQ Shelf List, projects can be approved from the Shelf List to replace programmed projects that cannot be delivered, or to avoid loss of funds. Since both of the projects on the Shelf List, totaling \$2,669,142 for Gold Coast Transit, can be approved for FTA Transfers during FY 2018/19, thus reducing the loss of funds due to rescission, staff recommends that use of those funds by Gold Coast Transit be approved. This action will lower the estimated end-of-year balance to slightly above \$4,000,000.

It is important to note that although this action will significantly reduce the rescission impact on Ventura County, this is not “free money.” Funds from the balance that are not rescinded will carry over to FY 2019/20 and be available for the CMAQ projects (primarily bicycle/pedestrian) that could not obligate funds by 2018/19. Although the use of \$2,669,142 for the Shelf List will reduce the amount of the rescission, thus keeping the money in the county, the portion of those funds that were not going to be rescinded will no longer be available to carryover and pay for the projects delivered in FY 2019/20 and beyond. As result, there will be a decrease in the funding available in the next CMAQ call for projects.