



**DATE:** September 13, 2018

**MEMO TO:** TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

**FROM:** PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** APPROVE 2018/19 FINAL PROGRAM OF PROJECTS

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Approve the final Program of Projects (POP) for federal transit operating, planning and capital assistance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19.

**BACKGROUND**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that the public be provided an opportunity to review transit projects proposed to be funded with federal dollars. As the designated recipient of federal transit funds, the VCTC is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a POP which lists projects to be funded with federal funds in each urban areas of Ventura County. Since 2003, VCTC has prepared the POP using separate programs for the Oxnard/Ventura, Thousand Oaks/Moorpark, and Camarillo urbanized areas, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Later, VCTC also began to prepare the POP for Simi Valley based on a decision by Caltrans to delegate to VCTC the Designated Recipient status for Simi Valley.

The proposed FY 2018/19 POP was put together using the same methodology that was first developed for the FY 2003/04 POP, to provide a distribution of revenues and expenses between the four urbanized areas in the County. A draft of this POP was reviewed and approved by TRANSCOM at its May 2018 meeting, and by the VCTC on June 1, 2018.

**DISCUSSION**

The attached Program of Projects table shows the recommended projects for each of the urbanized areas. The most significant changes from the draft are due to Congress unexpectedly passing a FY 2017/18 budget which appropriated funds for certain transportation programs at a greater amount than was authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Since the FY 2017/18 POP revenue estimates were based on the authorized amounts, the appropriation created a surplus for 2017/18 which has carried over to 2018/19 and is available

for programming. For transit, the Section 5337 and 5339 formula programs were recipients of funding above the authorized amounts.

For Section 5337, the State of Good Repair Program for which SCRRA is the county's only eligible recipient, the FY 2017/18 apportionments were \$737,861 above the estimate for the Oxnard/Ventura area and \$515,786 over the estimate for the Thousand Oaks/Moorpark area. These amounts have been added to the 2018/19 POP Metrolink Rehabilitation item with the amounts shown as available during the current fiscal year. SCRRA will be able to use these additional funds to help address the significant maintenance backlog that has been identified.

The Section 5339 Bus account received an additional \$226,036 above the estimate for Oxnard/Ventura and an additional \$130,820 above the estimate for remainder of the county. Since Section 5339 funds are only programmed to Gold Coast and VCTC, staff recommends that due to the relatively small amount of additional funds and the fact that Gold Coast can easily use the funds for debt service on its operations facility, that the Oxnard/Ventura area surplus be programmed for Gold Coast operations facility debt service, and the surplus for the other areas be programmed for VCTC vehicle leases, which VCTC can use.

Another change to the Final POP is that VCTC was notified by the Ventura County Human Services Agency (HSA) that they had misunderstood the application for the most recent JARC/5310 call for projects and had intended to apply for \$120,000 to cover two years' worth of funds, rather than the \$60,000 for which they were approved. Since as the Committee will recall there was an unused balance of available JARC funds, staff has revised the recommended Final POP to provide the additional \$60,000 to the HSA for the Work Reliability Transportation Project, by adding \$30,000 for FY 2017/18, which will be in addition to the \$30,000 in the FY 2017/18 POP; and also increasing the FY 2018/19 amount from \$30,000 to \$60,000. This funding at a rate of \$60,000 per year is in line with what the HSA had been receiving from JARC in prior years, so staff believes it is appropriate to approve the additional funds to provide the two years' worth of funds as would be expected given that the call for projects was for two years' worth of funds.

Although this past year the total apportionment was above the authorized amount and thus above VCTC's estimate, the FY 2018/19 POP continues to use estimates that assume funding at only the authorized amount. It is of course possible that based on the federal budget process the next apportionment could be less than the authorized amount, in which case it could be necessary to reduce funding from the approved POP. However, the FY 2018/19 transportation appropriation recently-approved by the Senate was again at a higher amount than what is authorized under FAST.

Subsequent to the TRANSCOM meeting, staff will publish the POP for public notice, and will present the POP to the VCTC for Public Hearing and approval at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.