



SACOG Board of Directors

May 11, 2006

SACOG Designated Recipient Status for Federal Transit Administration Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom Fund Programs

Issue: As part of the implementation of new programs under SAFETEA-LU, Caltrans intends to ask the Governor to designate the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the state, including SACOG, as the designated recipient for FTA 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and 5317 New Freedom funds.

Recommendation: The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to execute any documents necessary to assume designated recipient status for the Jobs Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs in the Sacramento urbanized area and, as applicable, the SACOG region.

Committee Action/Discussion: The SAFETEA-LU reauthorization established a number of new and modified programs including modifications to the JARC program and establishment of a New Freedom Program. SACOG has been very successful over the past several years in receiving JARC earmark funds and working with the transit operators and other agencies in establishing and operating successful JARC programs. The New Freedom Program is a new program designed to encourage services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Both of these programs provide formula based grant funds to large urbanized areas and to small urbanized and rural areas. The State of California/Caltrans acts as the designated recipient for funds in the small urbanized and rural areas. Both the JARC and New Freedom programs require the development of a locally developed coordinated public transit-human service transportation plan. SACOG has included the development of this plan in the FY 2006/07 fiscal year Overall Work Program.

Caltrans has encouraged SACOG to assume the role of designated recipient for these funds in the Sacramento Urbanized area and will work closely with SACOG in the administration of funds available to the small urbanized areas (Davis and Yuba City) and rural areas of the SACOG region. The FTA guidance currently being circulated for the JARC and New Freedom programs discusses a concern that there could be a "conflict of interest" in a large urbanized area if the designated recipient is responsible for the competitive selection process and is also itself eligible for funds. Therefore the designated recipient for the JARC and New Freedom program does not have to be the same as the designated recipient for 5307 funds. The designated recipient for FTA 5307 funds in the Sacramento urbanized area is Regional Transit.

The primary function of a designated recipient under these programs would be similar to that assumed by SACOG when it became the designated recipient for the Davis and Yuba City Urbanized areas, this is, that of a banker. Based on experience with the new role with these areas it does not appear that there is a significant amount of additional work that will be required by assuming this responsibility. As the MPO, SACOG already has broad responsibilities for the planning and programming of FTA funds. The respective roles and responsibilities for planning and programming for SACOG and the area transit operators have been established in Memoranda of Understanding with the operators that were executed in 2004.

Approved by:

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