



Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee

January 27, 2010

Small Transit Intensive Cities Funding

Issue: SACOG support of proposed TEA-3 re-authorization funding for small urbanized transit intensive cities through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Recommendation: That the Government Relations & Public Affairs Committee recommend that the Board support the City of Davis/Unitrans efforts to continue special funding for small urbanized transit intensive cities in the TEA-3 re-authorization bill.

Discussion: The Unitrans General Manager, Geoff Straw, requests the support of SACOG in Unitrans' efforts to secure transit funding to meet burgeoning demand in the City of Davis. Unitrans is severely capacity-constrained with a fleet of 45 buses providing over 3.5 million passenger-trips annually.

The FTA small urbanized transit intensive cities program offers the prospect of a modest boost in funding for Unitrans. In the current version of the reauthorization bill, FTA formula funding for urbanized areas (UZA) with populations less than 200,000 is calculated only from population and population density data; service factors are not considered. Because of this, some small UZAs, such as the City of Davis, would receive smaller apportionments than they would receive if service factors were included in their formula in the same way that they are included for larger UZAs. The City of Davis is one of only 13 small urbanized areas in the country that met all of the six FTA criteria for small transit intensive cities in 2008. No other SACOG region community qualifies for the proposed FTA program.

The City of Davis/Unitrans seeks support and coordination from SACOG as they continue to lead the lobbying efforts to include funding for small urbanized transit intensive cities program in the final TEA-3 bill. The language being supported by the City of Davis/Unitrans is in the Senate's preliminary mark-up of the bill that includes an annual total of \$35 million for the qualified cities.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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Key Staff: Matt Carpenter, Director of Transportation Services, (916) 340-6276
James E. Brown, Principle Program Expert, (916) 340-6221