



Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Meeting Date: 5/17/2018
Agenda Item No.: 2018-May-15.

SACOG Board of Directors

Subject: Approve Next Generation Transit Strategies Request for Qualifications (Est. time: 0 minutes)

Consent

Prepared by: Matt Carpenter

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

Should the board release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for hiring a consultant/team to help develop next generation transit strategies for the region?

2. Recommendation:

The Transportation Committee unanimously recommends that the Board: (1) approve the release of an RFQ for consulting support to develop next generation transit strategies; and (2) authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected consultant/team.

3. Background/Analysis:

A vital and robust transit system is a key foundation to realizing the performance outcomes of the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). In the current plan, increases in transit services and the associated trips generated help the region meet the 16% state greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target by 2036. The California Air Resources Board has set an even higher GHG target for SACOG's update to the MTP/SCS that will be adopted in 2020. At the same time performance targets are increasing, most of the region's transit agencies are experiencing declining ridership and not contemplating significant service expansions. Volatile funding sources, disruptive technologies, and costs increasing while productivity lags, are among the challenges to realizing the MTP/SCS vision of a vital and robust transit system.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

At the SACOG Board retreat in October 2017, concern was expressed by board members from across the region about the future of transit. As a result, "help the region advance a vision for next generation transit" became one of the ten SACOG work plan goals for 2018.

Staff sees value in hiring a well-qualified consultant/team to collaborate with the board and stakeholders to assess opportunities and challenges that result in strategies to implement the next generation of transit and related mobility services for the region. Innovations in services, finances, technologies, and governance are leading to new approaches to providing transit across the country. Based upon an initial assessment, a number of topics have been identified as potential ones for the consultant/team to address:

- Integrated approaches to transit network design
- Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) readiness for transit fleets
- Partnerships with emerging mobility providers
- Autonomous vehicles (AVs) for shared mobility pooling
- New governance models
- Integrated and mobile fare payment
- Improved traveler information

At the May Transportation Committee meeting, support for a broad-based effort was expressed. Caution was raised, however, that a modest budget may not be adequate to cover multiple topics well and ensure that the effort results in actionable strategies. Of particular interest to multiple committee members are new approaches to governance in a time of significant disruptions in technology and transit service delivery.

A selection committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation for which consultant/team to hire. The final work scope and contract will be negotiated as an agreement between the selected consultant/team and SACOG as the contract administrator, with input over the course of the project from the Board of Directors, local agency staff, the Transit Coordinating Committee, and other stakeholders.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no additional fiscal impact to SACOG's operating budget, other than what is already budgeted. Funding for the consultant services contract are included in the SACOG operating budget for Fiscal Year 2018/19.

This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

#6 - Help the Region Advance a Vision for "Next Generation Transit"