



Transportation Committee

September 25, 2014

Submission of Grant Application for FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning

Issue: Should SACOG submit an application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning?

Recommendation: That the Transportation Committee recommend that the Board approve a resolution that authorizes SACOG to submit an application to FTA for funding from the Pilot Program for TOD Planning if staff determines a competitive application can be prepared, and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the funding agreement associated with this grant, if awarded.

Discussion: On September 3, 2014, the FTA issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announcing the availability of \$19.98 million in Pilot Program for TOD Planning funding. The pilot program is designed to support comprehensive planning work, including TOD, which is conducted in conjunction with the development of a New Starts, Core Capacity, or fixed-guideway Small Starts project that is or will soon be in the project development or engineering phase. The program is intended to fund land use-related planning covering an entire transit capital project corridor, and that supports economic development, ridership, multimodal connectivity and accessibility, increased transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and mixed-use development near transit stations. The program encourages identification of infrastructure needs; engagement with the private sector; strategies to address potential residential and commercial displacement from TOD; and support for “ladders of opportunity,” through planning for improving residents’ access to employment, health care, education, and housing.

In the Sacramento region, the only transit project with eligibility for these funds is the Downtown Riverfront Streetcar (Streetcar) which is being planned between the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento. As the current project sponsor and existing direct recipient of FTA grants, SACOG would be the eligible applicant. Since the publication of the NOFA, SACOG staff has been in discussions with staff of the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento to assess their interests, potential project components of a grant application, and potential sources of the 20 percent required non-federal match. Staff of the two cities have identified interests in planning to support transit-oriented development in the areas surrounding the Streetcar that could include technical work on zoning codes, infrastructure assessment and financing, development standards, density feasibility, gentrification/displacement issues, parking issues, pedestrian safety, and intersection engineering.

SACOG staff will continue to work with the cities to determine if a competitive grant application can be prepared. If the decision is made to move forward, staff from the involved agencies will hone a project scope and budget, and submit the application by the deadline of November 3, 2014. A more detailed description of the application will be provided to the Board at its October 16 meeting, if available by then.

The attachment contains the resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to submit the grant application.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:SS:gg
Attachment

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SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. X – 2014

**APPROVING FTA GRANT APPLICATION FOR PILOT PROGRAM FOR TOD
PLANNING AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE
THE FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR AN AWARDED GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization and one of the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies responsible for transportation planning in the Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the current project sponsor for the Streetcar planned between the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration is offering an opportunity for SACOG and its partners in the Streetcar to apply for a grant for comprehensive planning under the Pilot Program for TOD Planning; and

WHEREAS, approval is requested for a grant application to be submitted by November 3, 2014, and for the Chief Executive Officer to execute a funding agreement between SACOG and the FTA if the grant is awarded;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SACOG Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to submit to FTA a grant application for the Pilot Program for TOD Planning, and authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute any grant agreements necessary to receive grant funds, or other funds that may be available, for the purpose of carrying out the grant application project with the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 16th day of October 2014, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Steve Cohn
Chair

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer