



DATE : March 29, 2021
TO: SolanoExpress Intercity Transit Consortium
FROM: Brandon Thomson, Transit Mobility Coordinator
RE: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-Urbanized Area Program
(FTA Section 5311) Recommendation

Background:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Non-urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5311) makes funding available to each state for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. Eligible applicants include public agencies, non-profits agencies, and American Indian tribes. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) annually develops the regional program of 5311. Solano Transportation Authority (STA) approves the 5311 projects for Solano County and submits them to MTC. MTC submits the San Francisco Region 5311 program to Caltrans, and then Caltrans submits a statewide program to FTA for approval.

The projects that have been previously funded from 5311 include operating assistance for Dixon Read-Ride, Rio Vista Delta Breeze, SolTrans for Route 85, and Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST) for Route 30. FTA Section 5311 funding has also been used for bus replacements for Rio Vista Delta Breeze and Dixon Read-Ride as well as funding swaps with the City of Dixon to assist Dixon and Solano County for their Intercity Bus Replacement shares and future bus replacements needs for Dixon. The City of Vacaville does not provide service in the rural area so they do not qualify for 5311 funding.

SolTrans has previously sought \$40,000 in operating assistance for Route 85 and FAST has historically received \$100,000 in operating assistance for Route 30. However, for the extensive time and effort that it takes to apply and report for the small amount of funding, SolTrans and FAST believe Dixon and Rio Vista would be better situated to utilize the 5311 funds to fulfill their operating and capital needs.

Discussion:

On March 24, 2021 STA staff received communication from MTC that the statewide Call for Projects for the FTA Section 5311 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) appropriations were released. The 5311 Call for Projects is due April 1, 2021(Attachment A).

Solano County was awarded \$417,629 in 5311 Funds for FY 2020-21 and STA staff has worked with Dixon Read-Ride and the Rio Vista Delta Breeze to assess their operating and capital needs. After these discussions, STA Staff is recommending Dixon receive \$239,031, all of which will be used for capital expenses. The City of Dixon will need to replace two cutaway buses and make electrification upgrades at their corporate yard.

After discussion with the Rio Vista Delta Breeze, STA staff is recommending Rio Vista receive \$178, 598 and all will be used for capital improvements. Rio Vista is in need of replacing two cutaway buses and will need to make electrification upgrades at their corporation yard in order to be compliant with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation, which mandates all public transportation vehicles be 100% emission free by the year 2040.

The FY 2020-21 5311 allocation breakdown by jurisdiction can be found on Attachment B. STA staff worked with the two rural operators and, based on Dixon and Rio Vista's needs, STA staff will submit the Project Justification Sheets to MTC on April 1, 2020.

Fiscal Impact:

Federal Section 5311 estimated funding in the amount of \$417,629 is available to Solano County Transit Operators that operate service in rural area.

Recommendation:

Forward a recommendation to the STA TAC and Board to approve the FTA 5311 programming for FY's 2020-21 as outlined in Attachment B.

Attachments:

- A. MTC Memo Dated March 24, 2020
- B. Solano County FY 2020-21 5311 Breakdown by Jurisdiction



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March 24, 2021

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Potential Section 5311 Applicants San Francisco Bay Area

RE: FY2021 Section 5311 and CRRSAA Section 5311 Rural Area Call for Projects

Dear Prospective Applicant:

MTC is currently soliciting projects for the regular and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) FY2021 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Rural Area Formula (Section 5311) programs for the San Francisco Bay Area region. These funds are available for capital and operating expenses for general public transportation services in rural areas, that is, any area outside designated urbanized areas. A map of the Bay Area's designated urbanized areas is enclosed as Attachment D. **All project justification sheets must be submitted no later than April 1, 2021 to Craig Bosman at cbosman@bayareametro.gov and Margaret Doyle at mdoyle@bayareametro.gov.**

MTC develops a regional Program of Projects (POP) for submittal to Caltrans. Caltrans then submits a statewide POP to FTA for approval.

Caltrans recently released the FY2021 and CRRSAA Calls for Projects and has provided MTC with apportionments for the same. The amount of Rural Area funds available for the MTC region is approximately \$1.78 million in regular FY2021 and \$4.72 million in CRRSAA.

In March 2021, the Commission committed approximately \$561,000 in CRRSAA Section 5311 funds to certain operators that were ineligible for CRRSAA Urbanized Area (Section 5307) funds due to urbanized area constraints. These funds will come off the top of the CRRSAA total as detailed in Table 1 below. The remainder of the CRRSAA funds – approximately \$4.16 million – will be distributed according to the region's standard Section 5311 formula. It is important to note that it is staff's intent that, as these are relief funds, CRRSAA funds programmed from this \$4.16 million will be considered part of an operator's total relief funds programmed to date during discussions of the distribution of American Relief Plan Act funding. Operators should also note that, for CRRSAA funds, if an agency has issued furloughs to any staff or contracted staff, only operating assistance projects are eligible.

Consistent with the revised Section 5311 Objectives and Criteria that were adopted by the Commission on October 23, 2013 (see Attachment B), funds will be distributed to transit operators according to each operator’s rural area population and rural area route miles. In a departure from MTC’s 5311 Objectives and Criteria, due to the availability of CRRSAA funds, the anticipated availability of American Rescue Plan Act funds, and uncertainty regarding future FTA funding levels, MTC is not yet issuing a two-year Call for Projects as has been typical. Table 1 shows each operator’s estimated FY2021 and CRRSAA amounts, and Attachment E contains the detailed formula calculations.

Table 1. Estimated FY2021 and CRRSAA Section 5311 Amounts by Operator

Transit Operator	FY21 5311 Amounts	CRRSAA Amounts Committed March '21	Remaining CRRSAA Amount
CCCTA	\$ 52,251		\$ 121,711
LAVTA	\$ 44,667		\$ 104,045
Marin Transit ¹	\$ 224,902		\$ 523,877
NVTA	\$ 220,834		\$ 514,402
SamTrans	\$ 162,466		\$ 378,442
Santa Clara VTA	\$ 84,999		\$ 197,994
Solano Transportation Authority ²	\$ 417,629	\$ 560,977	\$ 972,810
Sonoma County Transit	\$ 504,586		\$ 1,175,363
TriDelta Transit	\$ 72,011		\$ 167,740
Regional Total	\$ 1,784,344	\$ 560,977	\$ 4,156,384

¹ The Marin Transit amount is the sum of the Marin Transit (Local Service) and West Marin Stagecoach amounts. Marin Transit will determine which service will use the 5311 funds.

² The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) amount is the sum of the Dixon, Fairfield and Suisun Transit, Rio Vista Delta Breeze, SolTrans, and Vacaville amounts. STA will work with these operators to determine individual shares. For the CRRSAA Amounts Committed March 2021, \$462,867 is for Vacaville, \$69,918 is for Dixon, and \$28,192 is for Rio Vista. STA will work with those operators to program projects.

MTC will program FY2021 and CRRSAA funds only to those operators who submit Section 5311 project justification sheets during this Call for Projects. Applicants should base their requests on the amounts in Table 1. One set of project justification sheets should be completed for each project. The project justification sheets are enclosed as Attachment A.

MTC staff will review all project justification sheets to confirm that proposed projects meet program standards, based on the screening criteria in the Funding Objectives and Criteria (see Attachment B).

MTC staff will then develop a preliminary program of projects. If there are remaining Section 5311 funds (i.e., if some eligible operators did not submit Project Justification Sheets), MTC will use the funding formula to distribute the remaining balance to the operators that proposed

projects. MTC will confer with applicants to finalize the program of projects. Operators who are eligible to apply for 5311 funds but who do not intend to do so should inform MTC staff as soon as possible so that this can be anticipated and accounted for when developing the program.

MTC will transmit the draft FY2021 and CRRSAA programs to applicants for review by April 5, 2021. The preliminary FY2021 and CRRSAA programs will be reviewed by the TFWG and presented to the Programming and Allocations Committee and Commission for approval in April, and will be amended into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) following the Commission action. A detailed timeline is enclosed as Attachment C.

Agencies will be responsible for submitting the FY2021 and CRRSAA Project Applications to Caltrans by the appropriate deadline. Please note that the information in the Caltrans application forms (5311 amount, local match amount, project description, etc.) must match the MTC POP exactly. **The deadline for the FY2021 and CRRSAA Project Applications submissions to Caltrans is April 30, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

Application forms and more information, including Caltrans' Call for Projects can be found on the BlackCat Electronic Grants Management Website here:
<https://secure.blackcatgrants.com/Default.aspx?site=cadot>

The Caltrans District 4 contact person for Section 5311 funds is Cesley Nixon, who can be reached at (916) 654-8411, or via email: Cesley.Nixon@dot.ca.gov.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the FTA Section 5311 Rural Area Formula Program or the funding objectives and criteria, please contact Craig Bosman at (415) 778-6770 or cbosman@bayareametro.gov.

Sincerely,



Theresa Romell
Director, Funding Policy and Programs

TR:cb

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Attachment A1 & A2 – Project Justification Sheets
Attachment B – Section 5311 Funding Objectives and Criteria
Attachment C – Timeline
Attachment D – Map of Urbanized Areas
Attachment E – FY2021 and CRRSAA Section 5311 Formula Calculations

Solano County 5311 Funds
 26-Mar-21
 DRAFT

FFY 20-21 5311

88.53% Cap /

55.33% Ops

Federal Share

Total Available

\$ 417,629

Operations

Dixon FY21

Dixon/Vacaville Swap FY21

Dixon FY22

Dixon FY23

Subtotal Dixon

\$ -

Rio Vista FY21

Rio Vista FY22

Rio Vista FY23

Subtotal Rio Vista

\$ -

Subtotal Operations

\$ -

Capital

Dixon Replace Bus

\$ 84,104

Dixon Replace Bus

\$ 84,104

Dixon Replace Van?

Dixon Park & Ride, Signage

Dixon Electrification

\$ 70,824

Subtotal Dixon Capital

\$ 239,031

Rio Vista Replace Bus 24

\$ 84,104

Rio Vista Replace Bus 25

\$ 44,104

Rio Vista Replace Van?

Rio Vista Electrification

\$ 50,391

Subtotal Rio Vista Capital

\$ 178,598

Total Uses

\$ 417,629

Balance

\$0.00

Dixon

\$ 239,031

57%

Rio Vista

\$ 178,598

43%

Dixon

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
Operating Cost	\$ 1,063,000	\$ 1,096,000
Revenues		
Fares	\$ 70,000	\$ 75,000
Misc	\$ 3,500	\$ 500
CARES Act T1	\$ 195,796	
CARES Act T2	\$ 84,971	
CRRSAA - MTC Com	\$ 532,785	
CRRSAA - Remain.	\$ 176,000	\$ 472,540
Annual 5311	\$ -	\$ 266,667
Match/TDA		\$ 215,290
Additional TDA		\$ 66,003
Total	\$ 1,063,052	\$ 1,096,000
Balance	\$ 52	\$ -

Rio Vista

	FY 20-21	FY 21-22
Operating Cost	\$ 525,384	\$ 543,772
Revenues		
Fares	\$ 8,310	\$ 10,500
Misc	\$ 29,773	\$ 25,000
FTA 5310	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
CRRSAA 5310		\$ 32,000
CARES Act T1	\$ 21,580	
CARES Act T2	\$ 38,512	
CRRSAA - MTC Com.	\$ 28,192	
CRRSAA - Remain.	\$ 250,000	\$ 74,270
Annual 5311		\$ 133,333
Match/TDA		\$ 107,645
Additional TDA		\$ 11,024
Total	\$ 526,367	\$ 543,772
Balance	\$ 983	\$ -

Bus 25	\$ 95,000	
Insurance (Fed)	\$ 40,000	42.11%
Federal 5311	\$ 44,104	46.42%
Local Match	\$ 10,897	11.47%