

COUNTY OF SONOMA AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY REPORT	Clerk of the Board Use Only Meeting Date Held Until ____/____/____ ____/____/____ Agenda Item No: Agenda Item No: _____ _____	
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Department: Transportation and Public Works- Transit	<input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required
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Contact: Bryan Albee	Phone: (707) 585-7516	Board Date: 04/28/09	Deadline for Board Action:
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Agenda Short Title:

Sonoma County Transit – Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance (STA) Annual Claim of Funds

Requested Board Action:

Resolution authorizing the filing of a claim with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for allocation of TDA/STA funds for fiscal year 2009-10.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT			
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$	Contingencies	\$
Amount Budgeted	\$	(Fund Name:)	
Other Avail. Approp (Explain below)	\$	Unanticipated Revenue	\$
Additional Requested	\$ -0-	(Other Transfer(s)	\$ _____
Explanation (if required):		Add'l Funds Requested:	\$ _____

Prior Board Action(s): 5/13/08: Board authorized filing a claim with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for allocation of TDA/STA funds for FY 2008-09.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: Failure to act will delay the MTC process and availability of the requested funds by July 1, 2009.

Background:

Two sources of transit operating and capital assistance funds are available through State established programs that date back to the early 1970's. Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds represent ¼% state sales tax revenues that return to the County on a per-capita basis. Sonoma County receives TDA funds for the unincorporated area, as well as, from most cities in the county to support Sonoma County Transit and Sonoma County Paratransit services. For fiscal year 2010, Sonoma County will receive an estimated \$7,405,659 in TDA funds, \$3,503,311, or 47% of which comes from incorporated area contributions. TDA funds are considered local funds and are not subject to State budget deliberations.

The second source of state-based transit assistance comes from the State Transit Assistance (STA) program. STA funds represent a portion of sales tax revenues generated by the sale of vehicle fuel. Unlike TDA, STA funds are allocated at the discretion of the Governor through the state budget process. In FY 2009, STA funds represented approximately 17.75% of Sonoma County Transit's combined fixed-route and paratransit operating budget.

TDA and STA funds have traditionally been the lifeblood of transit operations funding. For FY 2010, TDA/STA funds represent approximately 63% of the combined fixed-route and paratransit operating budget. The balance is made up of Federal funds (12%), Measure M (7.5%), and passenger fares/miscellaneous revenues (17.5%).

In response to the state budget crisis, the Governor signed a revised budget in February 2009 that eliminated all new STA funding for a five-year period beginning in FY 2010. The elimination of STA funds was not foreseen by the transit community and its loss will have the greatest cumulative impact on the level of services that can be provided in coming years. Combined with the downturn in TDA funds, which are sales-tax based, Sonoma County Transit is recommending a 15% reduction in fixed-route service beginning June 28th. A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors has been scheduled for May 12, 2009, at 2:10 p.m. to receive public comment on the service reduction proposal.

To ensure fund availability for the upcoming fiscal year, Sonoma County Transit submits its funding claim each spring to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). A Coordinated Claim is prepared to illustrate funding agreements in place between jurisdictions to support County provided transit services. The Sonoma County Transportation Authority adopted the FY 2010 Coordinated Claim on April 13, 2009.

(continued on next page)

Attachments: Resolution; TDA/STA Coordinated Claim Summary

On File With Clerk: None

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

The following summarizes allocation of FY 2010 TDA funds to support County transit programs:

FY 2010	County of Sonoma TDA Apportionment	\$5,483,522
	Add: City Allocations Claimed by County	3,503,311
	Less: Support for Golden Gate Transit	<1,581,174>
	Total FY 2010 TDA Available	\$7,405,659
	Prior-Year TDA Claimed from Reserve for Operations	19,072
	Prior-Year STA Claimed from Reserve for Operations	675,972
	Prior-Year TDA Claimed from Reserve for Capital Projects	100,000
	Total TDA/STA Claimed for FY 2008 Capital & Operations	\$8,200,703

In summary, the proposed application claims monies for the following TDA/STA expenditures:

-	Operations funding for Sonoma County Transit	\$5,815,022
-	Operations funding for Sonoma County Paratransit/Volunteer Wheels (ADA)	1,885,669
-	Operating Contract with Mendocino Transit Authority	147,250
-	Cloverdale Transit (pass-thru)	92,625
-	Capital/Fixed Assets Projects per proposed FY 2010 Budget*	260,137
	Total – this claim	\$8,200,703

* reflects TDA/STA match only

In addition to the above, funds, Sonoma County Transit has approximately \$2.4M in TDA/STA reserve funds that may be called upon during the year to fill deficits from lower than projected revenues. These funds are also necessary to accommodate an unexpected increase in fuel prices should they occur during the year.

The rapid change in transit operating subsidies is unprecedented in Sonoma County Transit's 29 year history. Anticipating the new funding realities of the state-based transit funding programs (TDA & STA) transit staff is actively planning its budgets for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Funding stability, let alone growth, for transit operating assistance is largely dependent on an improved retail environment.

Recommendation:

Resolution authorizing the filing of a claim with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for allocation of TDA/STA funds for fiscal year 2010.