



RTA BOARD AGENDA

***** VIA ZOOM WEBINAR *****

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

RTA will immediately follow SLOCOG Board Meeting, start time will be approximately 11:00 a.m.

The *AGENDA* is available/posted at: <http://www.slorta.org>

President: John Peschong

Board Members:

Vice President: Ed Waage

John Peschong (First District – SLO County)
Bruce Gibson (Second District – SLO County)
Dawn Ortiz-Legg (Third District – SLO County)
Lynn Compton (Fourth District – SLO County)
Debbie Arnold (Fifth District – SLO County)
Jimmy Paulding (Arroyo Grande)

Heather Moreno (Atascadero)
Karen Bright (Grover Beach)
Robert Davis (Morro Bay)
Fred Strong (Paso Robles)
Ed Waage (Pismo Beach)
Andy Pease (San Luis Obispo)

Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment (including Limited English Proficiency [LEP]) by contacting the RTA offices at 781-4833. Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor a request.

Important Notice Regarding COVID-19

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, the RTA Board meeting on January 6, 2021 will be a virtual meeting held via Zoom webinar.

HOW TO WATCH:

1. **To Watch:** To watch the meeting online via livestream (on your computer or mobile device), go to: www.slo-span.org, or watch the meeting via Cable TV Public Access Channel 21.
2. **To Watch and Participate in Live Public Comment:** To provide public comment during the meeting, use the Zoom webinar link below. Please use the following link to register in advance of the webinar. After **registering**, you will receive a confirmation email with details about joining the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JhqdTE7IQ9uu8DUir5tnyg

HOW TO COMMENT:

The RTA is accepting general public comments for items on the RTA Board agenda as well as items of interest not on the agenda within the jurisdiction of the RTA Board.

***Note: Every effort will be made to include your comments into the record, but due to time limitations, some comments may not be included. Members of the public can submit comments by:

Zoom webinar – Verbal, Live Public Comments

- See details on page 1 of this agenda under ‘How to Watch.’

Email – Written Public Comments to: info@slorta.org with the subject line “public comment.”

- Include the agenda item number you are referencing or type “general comment,” if it is about an item not on the agenda.
- **Emailed written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2021.**

Mail – Written Public Comments

- Mail to:
Clerk of the Board
SLO RTA
179 Cross Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
- **Mailed written comments must be received by the RTA no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2021.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Board reserves this portion of the agenda for members of the public to address the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority Board on any items not on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Board will listen to all communication, but in compliance with the Brown Act, will not take any action on items that are not on the agenda.

- A. CONSENT AGENDA:** (Roll Call Vote) the following items are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and will be approved by one motion if no member of the RTA or public wishes an item be removed. If discussion is desired by anyone, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately. Questions of clarification may be made by RTA Board members, without the removal of the item from the Consent Agenda. Staff recommendations for each item are noted following the item.

- A-1 Authorize FTA Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Application Submittal (Approve)

B. INFORMATION AGENDA

None

C. ACTION AGENDA

None

D. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS –

None

E. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Next regularly-scheduled RTA Board meeting on May 5, 2021

SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

APRIL 7, 2021

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM: A-1

TOPIC: FTA Section 5339(c) Grant Application Submittal

PRESENTED BY: Melissa Mudgett, Grants and Finance Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Submit Application for FTA 5339(c) Low or No Emission Vehicle Program Funds

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On February 11, 2021, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity announcing the availability of \$180 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2021 competitive grant funding through the FTA Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission Vehicle Program (Low-No). The Low-No program funds the purchase or lease of low or no emission vehicles, as well as related equipment or facilities and workforce development training. Applications are due by April 12, 2021.

The main purpose of the Low-No program is to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. It provides 80% funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities. Additionally, recipients are permitted to use up to 0.5 percent of their requested grant award for workforce development activities eligible under federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5314(b)) and an additional 0.5 percent for costs associated with training at the National Transit Institute.

The RTA Board adopted a Zero Emission Vehicle Purchase Policy at its March 2019 meeting to help guide the implementation of new technologies to meet California's Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) fleet rule requirements. The ICT requires all transit agencies in the state – including the RTA – to eventually deploy 100% zero emission buses. As a small transit agency with fewer than 100 buses, the ICT regulation will require new buses purchased by the RTA to be zero-emission beginning in 2026 (and an all zero-emission fleet by 2040). To further support our policy, the RTA completed in April 2019 an Electrification-readiness plan that identified the necessary electrification infrastructure as part of the construction of the new Bus Maintenance Facility. The Bus Maintenance Facility and related bus charging infrastructure is currently under construction with substantial completion December 2021. This charging infrastructure will be necessary to support the phased-in deployment of zero-emission buses for the RTA.

The RTA continues to work closely with SLOCOG (our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)) and local transit partners to address the ICT fleet rule requirements. As a result of recent meetings, RTA staff has agreed to develop a competitive grant application for the procurement of zero emission buses that best meet our regional transportation needs. Staff recommends partnering with SLO Transit and applying for grant funding to purchase a total of eleven (11) zero-emission buses: five (5) buses for RTA and six (6) buses for SLO Transit to replace aging diesel-powered buses that have met or exceeded the FTA determined useful life in years and/or mileage. To date, we have secured eleven support letters, with commitments from at least six other organizations / elected officials.

Based on projected costs per electric bus, related equipment and workforce development training this equates to a total grant request of approximately \$11 million, with the Low-No grant covering \$9.42 million. These costs are based on established pricing through the California Department of General Services' agreements with three battery-electric bus manufacturers. The remaining 20% would be comprised of State Transit Assistance, State of Good Repair/SB-1 funds, California Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Program (HVIP) funds, and AB617 Clean Air Program funds administered by the SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). Staff has already submitted a grant application to the APCD for up to \$70,000/bus on behalf of the RTA and SLO Transit, and we have verified that up to \$138,000/bus is available in HVIP funds. Finally, staff has submitted a grant application for VW Mitigation Trust funds the full 20% local share. Any grant awards and resulting purchase orders would be brought back to the Board for consideration before any staff actions.

The FTA Section 5339(c) Low or No Vehicle Emissions grant application must include a Board resolution authorizing the submittal of the grant application and authorizing the Executive Director to execute and file all necessary assurances and any other documentation as required by the FTA or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the attached resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit a discretionary FTA 5339(c) Low or No Emission Vehicle Program grant application for the cost to purchase eleven (11) zero-emission buses, related equipment and workforce development training.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 21-07**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL
TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY FTA SECTION 5339(c) LOW
AND NO EMISSION GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has been delegated authority by the United States Department of Transportation to award Federal financial assistance for transit projects; and

WHEREAS, a grant or cooperative agreement for Federal financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and may require the RTA to provide the local share of the project cost; and

WHEREAS, the RTA has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the FTA required for the projects included in a grant application; and

WHEREAS, the RTA as the Grantee will file and execute applications for FTA Section 5339(c) discretionary funds, to the maximum extent allowed to fund the capital project to purchase of eleven (11) zero-emission buses (Five (5) buses for RTA and six (6) buses for SLO Transit), related equipment and workforce development training, which has been identified as meeting California's Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) fleet rule requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute and file applications for Federal assistance on behalf of RTA with the FTA for Federal Assistance authorized by 49.U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23, United States Code, or other Federal statutes authorizing a project administered by the FTA and has received concurrence from the San Luis Obispo Council of Government, San Luis Obispo, California, the MPO, to apply for FTA Section 5339(c) Discretionary Fund Program Assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute and file with its application the annual Certifications and Assurances required by the FTA before awarding a Federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.
3. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute and file such applications, assurances or any other documents required by FTA for the purpose of complying with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

4. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to furnish such additional information as the FTA may require in connection with the program of projects identified in applications.
5. The President of the RTA Board of Directors is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the FTA on behalf of the RTA.

On a motion of Delegate _____, seconded by Delegate _____, and on the following roll call, to wit: the foregoing resolution is hereby passed and adopted by the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority of San Luis Obispo County, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Board of Directors held on the 7th day of April 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

John Peschong
RTA Board President

ATTEST:

Geoff Straw
RTA Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

Rita Neal
County Counsel

By: _____
Nina Negranti
RTA Counsel

Dated: _____
(Original signature in BLUE ink)