

**Background Information:**

**Consent Calendar:**

2. **Approval of the March 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes**
3. **Federal Transit Administration (section 5310) application to expand the service program to fund out of county medical transportation. Application submitted by Sierra Senior Providers Inc. (SSPI). SSPI will operate the program which will be available to Tuolumne County Seniors and those with a disability. Project summary included for information purposes only.**

Sierra Senior Providers, Inc (SSPI) proposes to expand existing services by providing out of County transportation for non-emergency medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The out of County transportation program will provide transportation to medical facilities located in Palo Alto, San Francisco, Stockton, Sacramento, Modesto, Merced and potentially other locations not explicit at this time. Medical appointments would include, but not limited to, doctor, dental, vision, and dialysis. SSPI has a van with wheelchair access and would also utilize private vehicles as needed to impelment its program. The project would begin in October 2017 and operate through the entire three year grant cycle, through September 2020. The purpose of the expanded progress is to provide essential services and improve the quality of life for seniors. SSPI is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation that has been providing essential services to qualified seniors of Tuolumne County for 20 years, including an "In-County" transportation program for seniors.

TCTA staff coordinated and facilitated Sierra Senior Provider efforts to expand the transportation services they provide. We believe expanded services to seniors and a lower cost to the tax payer is consistent with the TCTA's mission statement.

**Recommended Action:**

*Receive and file this report.*

**Regular Agenda:**

4. **Progress Report on the construction of the Tuolumne Transit Center**

March has tendered some greatly appreciated reprieves from the precipitation of the previous five months. The break in storms allowed the contractor to make a big push in completing important elements of the project, including metal decking on the roof of the shade structure and main building. Footings were dug and poured for the retaining wall on the west side of the building and the seat walls that are located throughout the property. Rough carpentry was completed, along with roughing out all the electrical and plumbing. Mechanical systems were previously completed.

Staff has been working with the contractor on several items that are still outstanding. One of the most critical is items is furniture for the facility. This was one of the project items that was

removed from the bid during the value engineering process. This is seen as an important element of the project to have in place at the grand opening of the facility. Staff is working on how best to accomplish this goal.

Additionally, getting fiber optic cable extended to the site is still a working item. Similar to the furniture, this is seen as an important aspect of the project that should be live at the grand opening of the facility.

The projected completion date is now the second week of June. This may be a tough schedule to hold to, but we will keep the Transit Agency apprised in any changes to the current schedule. At this time, the project is on budget.

**Attachments:**

*Project Financial Report*

**Recommended Action:**

*There is no action required as this item is informational.*

**5. Mid-Year report on Tuolumne County Transit services.**

Staff reports regularly on the status of Tuolumne County Transit. The following update is a mid year review. As you are aware, the system has been in a transitional phase during 2017. This is due to the new transit center currently being constructed at the law and justice campus. This facility will be the first of its kind for Tuolumne County Transit, and will allow all buses to meet and exchange passengers at the same time.

A schedule update has also been pending the completion of this facility. Staff has been delaying the implementation of schedules to incorporate all changes simultaneously. Not only will this be more cost efficient, but it will also be less disruptive for passengers. Modifying the schedule constitutes a life altering circumstance in many instances.

As you may recall, Route 6 to the Phoenix Lake area will be eliminated as part of the schedule update. Additionally, the monthly pass fare increase will also play an important role in addressing low farebox recovery. This previously adopted direction from the TCTA along with the increased efficiency of all routes transferring passengers at one transit specific, comfortable and convenient location is anticipated to offer a much needed bump to the system. Staff is anticipating a future farebox recovery of about eleven percent.

Fixed Route ridership levels seem to be range bound. Overall farebox recovery has remained stubbornly at 8.9%. On time performance is slightly better while passengers per vehicle mile is down marginally. Pursuant to our contract with Storer, operating cost continues to escalate which negatively impact cost effectiveness. Two bright spots in the report are Dial-a-Ride (DAR) service and the SkiBUS. DAR numbers have been a focus area for staff and the contractor as this is the most expensive aspect of service. The SkiBUS service is heavily dependent on weather conditions, and this year has been extremely wet. This has yielded good overall ridership and farebox recovery ratios for the service.

**Attachments:**

*Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Mid-Year Performance Report*

**Recommended Action:**

*Receive and file this report.*

- 6. Recommend the TCTA adopt Resolution 38-17 selecting Pinecrest Public Transit service as the project to be funded with Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds through the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), designate the Executive Director as the Authorized Agent for all project submittals and agree to abide by Grant Assurances in accepting funds.**

The Pinecrest recreation area is one of the busiest summer destinations in Tuolumne County. Located at roughly 5600 feet of elevation it is perfect for beating the heat of the lower foothills. There are a myriad of recreation opportunities in the area including hiking, camping, fishing, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing to name a few. There are three developed campgrounds, various Camp facilities, cabins, and community facilities. There is also a small commercial core that serves the summer population.

Pinecrest is in the Stanislaus National Forest, within the Summit Ranger District. The lake itself is an incredibly important asset to Tuolumne County, PG&E, Tuolumne Utilities District, Pinecrest Permittees Association, and local businesses.

Pinecrest sees peak activity levels between Memorial Day and Labor Day. During this busy Spring-Summer season, it is not uncommon to experience major congestion at Pinecrest. Parking is impacted, and the potential for conflict between traffic and bicyclist/pedestrians is a major concern to those that manage the area. The Transit Agency Board has encouraged staff to be vigilant in looking for opportunities to help alleviate congestion and parking impacts in the area.

Subsequently, staff brought back a proposal to use the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) to fund a seasonal transit service from Sonora to Pinecrest. New transit services are an eligible project under the new program (funded through the sale of Carbon credits). As you may recall, the TCTA approved the Fiscal Year 2016/17 Recommended Budget at last month's meeting including the \$24,213 LCTOP Grant revenue and expenditure on the Pinecrest Service.

There has been on-going planning in the Pinecrest recreation area for the last five years. The Pinecrest Recreation Area: Traffic/Circulation/Parking Plan is the product of these efforts. This project is consistent with this document, which recommends instituting 'shuttle' service provided on the half hour and capital improvements to support Bus parking, loading and unloading. While shuttle service on the half hour is not part of this service expansion, it is a step towards shuttle service.

**Service Plan**

Staff has drafted a proposal to serve Pinecrest, beginning July 2017. Staff has worked stakeholders in the region to develop a service plan. Service is proposed to be operated similar

to the SkiBUS, running weekends and holidays. Pinecrest service will start in downtown Jamestown, and then proceed on to- Sonora, East Sonora, Willow Springs, Twain Harte, Sugar Pine, Mi Wok, Sierra Village and then Cold Springs before reaching Pinecrest. Initiating service in Sonora and connecting with hotels along the route may facilitate tourists staying in mountain towns, generating economic activity, while connecting with a major attraction.

The run will likely be an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes.

**Attachments:**

*Resolution 38-17; Caltrans 2016/17 LCTOP Allocation Request*

**Recommendation:**

*Recommend the TCTA adopt Resolution 38-17 selecting Pinecrest Public Transit service as the project to be funded with Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds through the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program(LCTOP), designate your Executive Director as the Authorized Agent for all project submittals and agree to abide by Grant Assurances in accepting funds.*

**7. Recommend approval of Resolution 39-17 allocating California Office of Emergency Services Transit Security Grant Funds for Information Kiosk and Trip Planning Equipment at the Tuolumne Transit Center**

The Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, approved by the voters as Proposition 1B at the November 7, 2006, general election, authorizes the issuance of \$19,925,000,000 in general obligation bonds for specified purposes, including grants for transit system safety, security and disaster response projects, for a period of ten years. This is the final year of Prop 1B funding.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is requesting Investment Justifications (applications) for Transit Security Grant Funds for the FY 2016-2017 year and is due by June 30, 2017. For the 2016-17 fiscal year, \$37,736 is available to the Tuolumne County Transit Agency (TCTA) for capital projects that increase the capacity of transit officials to prepare for a disaster, or increase the protection of individuals against a security or safety threat.

The project selected for funding will be for an informational and trip planning kiosk at the Law & Justice Center Transit Facility. This project will improve public transportation safety while also assisting day to day transit users in understanding when and where Tuolumne County Transit buses will arrive. Staff has already received notification that these projects meet the eligibility requirements.

Darin Grossi, Executive Director of the Tuolumne County Transit Agency, will be the authorized agent of this Cal OES Grant, meaning that he will sign, approve and submit applications, agreements and other necessary documents to Cal OES.

**Attachments:**

1. *Authorized Agent*
2. *Resolution 39-17*
3. *Grant Assurances Form*

**Recommended Action:**

*Recommend approval of Resolution 39-17 allocating California Office of Emergency Services Transit Securities Grant Funds.*

**8. Reports**