



Agenda Report

January 25, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECEIPT OF FTA SECTION 5310 GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE ENHANCED ACCESSIBLE MOBILITY PROJECT FOR PASADENA DIAL-A-RIDE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule);
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) associated with the receipt of \$689,612 in reimbursable Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 grant funding for the continuation of the Enhanced Accessible Mobility project including three years of additional operating funds and assistance to purchase three Pasadena Dial-A-Ride vehicles.

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Section 5310 is a grant program designed with the purpose of assisting transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), as the direct recipient of these funds, issued a grant solicitation to competitively award these funds to transportation providers in Los Angeles County.

In 2019, the City successfully applied for expansion and continuation funding for a 2015 FTA Section 5310 project, Pasadena Dial-A-Ride Enhanced Accessibility Mobility Project. The original 2015 grant, funded the purchase of two wheelchair accessible minivans that could travel on narrow streets and gain access to other locations where vehicular access is constrained, and funded the operations of these vehicles until 2021

with a local match of about 33%. The 2019 grant will extend the project for three more years from 2021 to 2024. The City will be providing the local match at a lower local match of 25%.

The vehicles from the 2015 solicitation went into service in 2017 and began serving the Pasadena Dial-A-Ride service area (Pasadena, Altadena, San Marino, and Unincorporated Los Angeles County) that previously was more challenging to access (Attachment A). Prior to the FTA Section 2015 grant, the Pasadena Dial-A-Ride fleet included only 22-foot cutaway shuttle style vehicles that were too large to travel on narrow streets or be able to access other constrained locations.

With the help of the grant-funded minivans, Pasadena Dial-A-Ride was able to not only close service gaps in the service area, but also increase available service on Pasadena Dial-A-Ride by nearly 15%, consistent with the Pasadena Short Range Transit Plan. This added service capacity contributed to historical high system wide ridership and productivity on Pasadena Dial-A-Ride in 2019 and 2020, until the start of COVID-19. As part of the City of Pasadena transit response and support to the community during the pandemic, the minivans have assisted delivering food from foodbanks to Pasadena Dial-A-Ride members who are in a high-risk vulnerable population. The receipt of the funding will contribute to the ongoing essential operations of Pasadena Dial-A-Ride for another three years.

The 2019 FTA Section 5310 grant also provides funding to replace the two original minivans from the 2015 solicitation. Per the FTA's minimum useful life requirements for vehicles, both of the minivans will reach their useful life in Fiscal Year 2021. Additionally, a third minivan was funded to allow for more service to be provided during peak demand times. Staff will return to the City Council for award of the vehicle purchases. It is anticipated that the 2015 grant funds will be exhausted in calendar year 2021. Once exhausted, the 2019 continuation grant funds will begin and continue until exhausted, about three years later.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the following goals of the Strategic Plan: Improve, Maintain and Enhance Public Facilities and Infrastructure; Increase Conservation and Sustainability; and Improve Mobility and Accessibility throughout the City. The grant funding for the purchase of three Pasadena Dial-A-Ride vehicles will enable Pasadena Dial-A-Ride to provide additional flexibility of service to seniors and the disabled community. In addition, it will continue to provide nearly a 15% increase in revenue service hours to add passenger capacity for increased mobility.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The purchase of these vehicles is exempt from the CEQA review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2 replacement or reconstruction. Class 2 exempts from CEQA replacement or reconstruction activities that involve negligible or no expansion of capacity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The approval of this action will enable the City to obtain \$689,612 in reimbursable FTA Section 5310 grant funding through Metro. The local match for the purchase and operation of the vehicles is a requirement of the grant in order to fully fund this project. The table below shows the amount and percentage between the grant funding and local match.

	Grant Funding		Prop A Local Match		Total
3 Minivans	\$ 145,800	90%	\$ 16,200	10%	\$ 162,000
3 Years Operating	\$ 543,812	75%	\$ 181,270	25%	\$ 725,082
Total Program	\$ 689,612	77.7%	\$ 197,470	22.3%	\$ 887,082

By authorizing the receipt of this funding, Pasadena Dial-A-Ride will be able to continue funding the additional minivan service. Staff will return to the City Council to consider authorization of the vehicle procurement. The City's required one-time match of \$16,200 for the vehicle purchase will use existing budgeted appropriations of Proposition A Local Return (Fund 208) for Capital Improvement Project 75086 (Purchase of Dial-A-Ride vehicles). The local match for the operating service costs will use annual budget appropriations in account 20824034-811400.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Rubio-Cornejo
Director
Department of Transportation

Prepared by:



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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment:

Attachment A – Pasadena Dial-A-Ride Service Area