



## Memorandum

**DATE:** March 2, 2012

**TO:** Program and Projects Committee

**FROM:** Matt Todd, Manager of Programming

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Safe Route to School (SR2S) Federal Funding Exchange

### Recommendation

It is recommended the Commission approve the Safe Route to School (SR2S) Federal Funding Exchange Proposal. The overall commitment to the SR2S project would remain unchanged and the program will be implemented as originally approved by the Alameda CTC Board.

### Summary

The Alameda CTC Board approved the Countywide Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program in summer 2010 which included approximately \$1.3 million for a Capital Program. The Capital Program includes two primary elements: the Capital Project element of \$600,000, and the Project Support element (Technical Assistance Program) (TAP) of \$700,000 (Attachment A). The program was initially funded with a combination of Federal (STP/CMAQ) and local match.

### Background

Staff is proposing an exchange proposal with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC), who operate the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) service, that would provide non-federal funds to implement the SR2S Capital Program. Local funds received as a part of this exchange will provide funding for Alameda CTC to deliver the SR2S Capital Program (Capital Projects and Technical Assistance Program Elements).

The TAP program was proposed to provide Capital Project development resources (i.e. Environmental Documents, Design Phase) to agencies. This program was also envisioned to assist agencies in getting projects in a position to compete for other capital focused SR2S grant programs. During the efforts of obligating federal funds, federal eligibility issues related to certain types of tasks, originally envisioned to be funded by TAP, were raised. The availability of non-federal funds would provide needed flexibility in delivering such tasks.

The Alameda CTC is a partner in the ACE Operations through a cooperative service agreement and considers funding contributions on an annual basis through an annual baseline service plan process.

Exchange Proposal

The Alameda CTC would provide the SJRRC \$1,150,935 of Federal STP funds (initially identified for Alameda SR2S efforts) for ACE Service Preventative Maintenance.

The SJRRC has expended about \$2.05 million of Measure B funds, annually, for the Alameda contribution to the multi-county service. This amount of funding is projected to be required for FY 12/13 as well. The proposed exchange would reduce the requested \$2.05 million of Measure B funds by the above amount of STP funding. Overall the remaining request for Alameda funding to the annual service operations would be about \$900,000 (\$2.05 Million - \$1.15 Million). The SR2S program will be implemented with Measure B funds.

Original Funding

	Federal	Local / Measure B	Total
SR2S	\$1,150,935	\$149,070	\$1,300,005
ACE Operations / Preventative Maintenance		\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,150,935</b>	<b>\$2,199,070</b>	<b>\$3,350,005</b>

Proposed Exchange

	Federal	Local / Measure B	Total
SR2S		\$1,300,005	\$1,300,005
ACE Operations / Preventative Maintenance	\$1,150,935	\$899,065	\$2,050,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,150,935</b>	<b>\$2,199,070</b>	<b>\$3,350,005</b>

The overall commitment to the SR2S project would also remain unchanged and the program will be implemented as originally approved by the Alameda CTC Board.

At the September 2011 Alameda CTC Board meeting, the Commission approved a revised strategy to deliver the Alameda County Safe Routes to School Capital Project Element. The revised strategy included the re-evaluation of the capital project proposals and the implementation plan of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) based on options available as a result of the proposed exchange of the federal funds. The implementation strategy of the SR2S program will be brought back to the committees and the Commission in the upcoming months as soon as the exchange is formalized.

In addition to the above exchange, staff is also continuing to explore options to exchange an additional \$2.4 Million of CMAQ funds from two Federal Block grant projects. The projects were programmed as a part of the Cycle I Federal Block Grant funding and have delivery issues related to Environmental and Right of way clearances.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Alameda County Safe Routes to School Program Summary