



July 9, 2020
TAC Agenda Item 7.3
Continued From: New

Action Requested: INFORMATION

NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TAC Agenda Letter

TO: Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Kate Miller, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Diana Meehan, Senior Planner
(707) 259-8327 / Email: dmeehan@nvta.ca.gov
SUBJECT: Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 6

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) issued a notice for Letters of Interest for the Lifeline Transportation Program on June 22, 2020. There is \$156,129 in federal transit funds available to public transit operators, community based organizations and non-profits, and other local government agencies for lifeline transportation projects. Lifeline funds address transportation gaps or barriers identified in community-based transportation plans or other local planning efforts in low-income communities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Is there a fiscal impact? No, however NVTA Board approval will make \$156,657 available for programming.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) makes funding available to improve mobility of low-income communities through the Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP). LTP funds are distributed to counties based on a low-income population formula and are administered by each county transit operator. The Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) serves as the Transit Operator for Vine Transit. NVTA issued a notice for all interested parties to submit Letters of Interest for lifeline funding.

The program is intended to fund projects included in community-based transportation plans or other planning efforts, including projects that: 1) Are developed through a collaborative and inclusive planning process; 2) improve transportation choices; 3) address transportation gaps identified in the Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTP) or other local planning efforts; and 4) focus on transportation needs specific to elderly and disabled residents of low income communities.

Eligible Applicants:

Public agencies, county social service agencies, cities and counties, and non-profit organizations are eligible applicants. However, since Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funds are all statutorily restricted to eligible public transit agencies, applicants must partner with NVTa to access the revenues.

Available Funding:

Table 1. Lifeline Fund Sources

Fund Source	Amount		Total
	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	
FTA Section 5307 Funds	\$77,528	\$79,129	\$156,657

Local Matching Fund Requirement:

LTP Cycle 6 requires a minimum match of 20% of the total project cost.

Two exceptions to the 20% requirements:

- 1) FTA Section 5307 operating projects require a 50% match.
- 2) All auto-related projects require a 50% match.

Local match for FTA funds can be federal funds providing they are not Department of Transportation Funds.

Eligible Projects:

The program goal is to improve mobility for low-income communities in Napa County. Eligible Projects under FTA Section 5307 include:

- New and existing transportation and transit services
- Capital and operating projects

Projects that comply with the requirements above may include, but are not limited to:

- Late-night & weekend service

- Guaranteed ride home service
- Shuttle service
- Expanding fixed route public transit routes, including hours of service or coverage
- Demand-responsive van service
- Ridesharing and carpooling activities
- Transit-related aspects of bicycling (such as first-mile/last-mile connections to transit)
- Administration and expenses for voucher programs
- Local car loan programs
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Marketing
- Mobility management

Statutory restrictions and eligibility for revenues included in the Lifeline program can be found at the following website:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FINAL_FTA_circular9030.1E.pdf

FTA Section 5307

Projects will be selected based on -

- 1) Community-identified priority/ local support
- 2) Implementation plan/project readiness
- 3) Ability to provide required match
- 4) Accountability and Reporting
- 5) Cost effectiveness
- 6) Project budget/sustainability

Project Priority is given to projects addressing the four overarching priorities identified in the CBTP:

- Improve Pedestrian Safety – Improve conditions to reduce traffic incidents and increase pedestrian safety
- Mobility-options that expand mobility for low-income, senior and disabled residents
- Transit related-increase local transit evening frequencies, increase amenities, decrease fares for low-income individuals
- Americans with Disabilities-Increase transit ADA access

Project Delivery Requirements:

For projects receiving FY 2018-19 funds, the project must be complete by August 2023, and August 2024 for FY 2019-20 funds.

Table 2. Application/Lifeline Transportation Program Schedule

June 22, 2020	NVTA issues request for Letters of Interest
July 3, 2020	LOI due to NVTA
July 6, 2020	NVTA staff review for CBTP consistency and staff recommendation
August 1, 2020	NVTA submit Draft Lifeline Project(s) to MTC
August 19, 2020	NVTA Board Approval

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Attachments:

None – information about the Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 6, including program guidelines can be found at:

https://www.nvta.ca.gov/sites/default/files/Lifeline%20Cycle%206%20Program%20Guidance_RE_S-4416_Signed_0.pdf