## Subject

Approval of FY 2015-16 Measure J Allocation for the Sub-Regional Southwest County Safe Transportation for Children: School Bus Program (Program 21c)

## Summary of Issues

The Measure J Expenditure Plan establishes the sub-regional Southwest County Safe Transportation for Children: School Bus Program (Program 21c) funding at 3.32 percent of sales tax revenues. Within that allocation, the Lamorinda School Bus Program receives 1.32 percent of annual revenues and the San Ramon Valley school bus program (dba TRAFFIX) receives 2.00 percent of annual revenues. Proposed program allocations are based on those percentages applied to projected Measure J sales tax revenues for FY 2015-16.

## Recommendations

Approve Resolution No. 15-33-G to allocate Measure J Sub-Regional Southwest County Safe Transportation For Children: School Bus Program funds for FY 2015-16.

## Financial Implications

The FY 2015-16 allocation includes: $2,749,847 to the two school bus operators and $3,000 for program management/legal costs.

## Options

1. Not approve the allocation at this time;
2. Direct staff to investigate other allocation options.

## Attachments (See PC Packet dated 6/3/15)

A. Resolution No. 15-33-G
B. Lamorinda School Bus - FY 2015-16 Financial Plan
C. Traffix – FY 2015-16 Financial Plan

## Changes from Committee

None
Background

Consistent with the Measure J Expenditure Plan, the proposed allocation is calculated at 3.32 percent of sales tax revenues to the Express Bus Program. The plan further provides for a programmatic distribution of the funds by the following percentages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Original Revenue Estimate</th>
<th>Current Revenue Estimate*</th>
<th>Program provider percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRAFFIX (San Ramon Valley)</td>
<td>$40.0M (2004 $)</td>
<td>$30.0M (2004$)</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Current revenue from 2011 Measure J Strategic Plan update.

Using the above percentages, the allocation split to each operator would be as provided in Resolution 15-33-G.

TRAFFIX

Under the governance of a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement that formed the Measure J Traffic Congestion Relief Agency (dba TRAFFIX) in 2008, the Town of Danville, City of San Ramon, San Ramon Valley Unified School District and Contra Costa County operate a 22-fleet school bus service in the San Ramon Valley that provides student transportation at ten schools for the 2015-16 school year: Monte Vista High School, San Ramon Valley High School, Los Cerros Middle School, Green Valley and Vista Grande elementary schools in Danville; and California High School, Pine Valley Middle School, Country Club, Coyote Creek, Neil Armstrong, and Walt Disney elementary schools in San Ramon. TRAFFIX provides the bus service through a contract with First Student, Inc. and program administration through a contract administrator.

TRAFFIX does not operate as a typical home-to-school bus service but rather as a traffic congestion relief program. Routing has been established based on a traffic analysis that identified the most congested intersections within the San Ramon Valley during peak times, coupled with a market analysis that identified the areas that are most likely to use the student transportation service.

TRAFFIX is just completing its sixth year of service which by all accounts, continues to build upon its success, year after year. TRAFFIX annual fare per passenger is $285.
Lamorinda School Bus Program

The Lamorinda School Bus Program began in FY 1994-95 as a demonstration program. Funding for the program was drawn from the “Gateway/Lamorinda Traffic Program” in Measure C, which authorized “action/measures to mitigate the traffic density between Highway 24 and the Town of Moraga including cost benefit analysis.” Following a comprehensive study and analysis of a number of alternatives, Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda jointly agreed to set aside one-half of the available funding in this category for the School Bus Program. The projected benefits were a reduction of approximately 5 percent in peak period traffic around schools on major arterials, with an attendant reduction in congestion.

The Authority initially authorized the School Bus Program on a temporary basis, and required an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in order to continue annual appropriations. A Joint Powers Agency (JPA) was created to administer the program, comprised of the two cities and the town and the three local kindergarten through 8th grade school boards in the area. An initial five-year cooperative agreement was signed with the JPA in 1994. In FY 2007-08 the Acalanes Union High School District joined the JPA.

Initial survey results suggested that the program was meeting its objectives. However, as a condition for approval of funding for the third year of the program (FY 1996-97), the Authority requested additional analysis of the impacts of the program and asked for a detailed, five-year financial plan. In April of 1997 the Authority accepted the financial plan. The Authority accepted revised survey results in May 1997, which continued to demonstrate the positive impact of the program in reducing congestion, consistent with the intent of Measure C. Funding was subsequently approved for FY 1997-98 and FY 1998-99, completing the five-year “demonstration” period for the program.

The program’s demonstrated benefits – through analysis of ridership and impact surveys – established it as an ongoing part of the Measure C program. In June 1999, the Authority approved a second five-year Cooperative Agreement (16.00.07) to continue the program through FY 2004, subject to annual appropriations. The agreement was amended three times thereafter to make it consistent with the 2002, 2004 and 2005 Strategic Plans, respectively.

Under Measure J, the ongoing funding of the Lamorinda School Bus service was moved from the project category to the program category under the sub-regional Southwest County Safe Transportation for Children: School Bus Program (Program 21c). Under this program, the service will be allocated a set percentage of sales tax revenue. Lamorinda School Bus will provide the Authority with a financial plan showing, at a minimum, the most current audited year, current year, year of the funding request, and estimates for the three years following the funding request year.
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