



DATE: August 5, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Bjorn Gripenburg, MCRP – Project Manager, Public Works & Utilities (PW&U)
Jared Hall – Transit Manager, PW&U
Gina Benedetti-Petnic, PE – Interim Director, PW&U

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Cooperative Funding Agreements No. G20400E1 (Go Sonoma Roads) and G41300E1 (Go Sonoma Transit) Between the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and the City of Petaluma

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Cooperative Funding Agreements No. G20400E1 (Go Sonoma Roads) and G41300E1 (Go Sonoma Transit) between the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and the City of Petaluma.

BACKGROUND

On November 3, 2020, Sonoma County voters approved the Go Sonoma Act (Measure DD), a 20-year extension of Sonoma County's ¼-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation improvements (Measure M), which expires on March 31, 2025. With the passage of Go Sonoma, voters approved a new Expenditure Plan that will take effect in April 2025. The Go Sonoma Expenditure Plan includes four programs in two categories:

Category 1: Fix Roads, Fill Potholes, Improve Safety and Usability for All (65 percent of funds)

- Program 1.1: Smooth and Maintained Roads (38 percent)
- Program 1.2: Move Traffic and Improve Safety (27 percent)

Category 2: Improve Alternatives to Cars, Fight Climate Change (35 percent)

- Program 2.1: Increase Bus Service, Affordability, and First/Last Mile Connections (23 percent)
- Program 2.2: Build Bikeways and Pathways (12 percent)

DISCUSSION

Two of the four programs— 1.1) Smooth and Maintained Roads (Go Sonoma Roads) and 2.1) Increase Bus Service, Affordability, and First/Last Mile Connections (Go Sonoma Transit)—will provide formula funding to local jurisdictions to support ongoing activities, while the other two programs will distribute funding through competitive processes. Entering into these Cooperative Funding Agreements will enable SCTA to begin making quarterly distributions to the City of Petaluma for the formula funds once the Go Sonoma Expenditure Plan goes into effect in April 2025.

Go Sonoma Roads will distribute 38 percent of the Go Sonoma sales tax revenues to local jurisdictions to perform street maintenance. The funds are distributed among Sonoma County's ten jurisdictions using a 50/50 split based on the jurisdiction's percentages of the County's population and roadway mileage. When the Expenditure Plan was drafted in 2020, Petaluma's population/road mile split was 9.78 percent, with annual funding for street maintenance estimated at \$966,615.

Go Sonoma Transit will distribute 23 percent of Go Sonoma sales tax revenues to transit agencies to support service continuity, service expansion, and fare-free rides. The funds are distributed to agencies based on the percentage of the County's population within their service areas. When the Expenditure Plan was drafted in 2020, Petaluma Transit's service area population was 12.43 percent, with annual funding for transit operations estimated at \$646,482.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

SCTA conducts public outreach efforts related to Go Sonoma. SCTA Board of Directors and Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public, and meeting dates and agendas are available at <https://scta.ca.gov/meetings-and-events/>.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

The street maintenance and transit operations efforts funded by Go Sonoma will support the City Council's Safe Mobility and Community Connectivity / Safe Streets Goal, a top ten priority, as well as the following Council Workplan Items:

- #15. Identify funds and develop a plan to improve Petaluma's streets and roads.
- #20: Better integration of multi-modal transportation with street designs.
- #23: Expand transit service on primary corridors.
- #27: Encourage transit use through expanded service, pass programs, partnerships, and promotion.
- #84. Enhance pavement management programs to improve the safety and serviceability of our roads and to protect drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- #85: Implement City Vision Zero plan with a focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety with improvements to uncontrolled crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalk, and bicycle infrastructure.

- #215: Update the Transit vision for the City, including reviewing transit service levels, alternative delivery models, reducing barriers to use, and increasing ridership

CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

The City’s street maintenance and transit operations efforts seek to improve transportation options, thereby helping to reduce vehicle trips and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is Petaluma's leading source of greenhouse gas emissions, at 66.5 percent.¹

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2), in that entering into cooperative agreements does not meet CEQA’s definition of a “project,” because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and because this action constitutes administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. If this item were a “project” it would be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15301 (Existing Facility) as the funds are used to repairs roads which is an existing facility.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Authorizing the City Manager to execute these Cooperative Funding Agreements with SCTA would enable SCTA to allocate and distribute Go Sonoma transportation sales tax revenues to the City of Petaluma to support roadway maintenance and transit operations. As noted above, the 2020 Expenditure Plan estimated Petaluma’s annual formula funds at \$966,615 for roads and \$646,482 for transit. The estimated revenues have been included in the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

ALTERNATIVES

If the City Council decides not to authorize the City Manager to execute Cooperative Funding Agreements with SCTA, the City will not receive Go Sonoma transportation sales tax revenues to support roadway maintenance and transit operations.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Cooperative Funding Agreement No. G20400E1 (Go Sonoma Roads)
3. Cooperative Funding Agreement No. G41300E1 (Go Sonoma Transit)

¹ <https://rcpa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/RCPA-GHG-Inventory-Update-2022-Full-Report-FINAL-2024-07-08.pdf>