

SUBJECT: Section 5311 Funding Authorizing Resolution  
FROM: Georgina Landecho, Executive Director  
DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2024

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### **Action Requested**

Staff requests the Board of Directors approve Resolution 24-002 authorizing staff to forward the Letter to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to initiate the process of potentially receiving federal funding under FTA Section 5311. This resolution is required to request this funding from Caltrans.

### **Background**

FTA Section 5311 funds are primarily used to fund capital and operating expenses for general public transportation services in rural areas, meaning any area outside designated urbanized areas. The California Vanpool Authority's (CalVans) service area includes both Urbanized Areas as well as nonurbanized areas outside of those boundaries. Federal law designates States as the recipients of 5311 funding. In California, this responsibility is assigned to Caltrans, with the MPO/RTPA responsible for developing the region's Program of Projects (POP) on a formula basis for eligible transit operators. Caltrans will release the FY2024 and CRRSAA Call for Projects and provide MPO/RTPA with apportionments for the same.

The 5311 chart on the next page is a visual summary of how the funds are allocated within the program for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

### **Discussion**

Based on this formula, CalVans may be eligible to receive FY2024 5311 funds and funds appropriated under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). CalVans would use 5311 funds to offset the costs of hiring additional staff for the new site designated as non-urbanized.

FY2024 5311 funding for operating assistance requires a local match; no local match is required for CRRSAA funds. FTA further requires a resolution of support from the Board of Directors as part of the funding approval process.

### **Budget**

The total project budget is not known for 5311 funds but once determined would be used to support eligible operating expenditures and the required local match for the FY2024 funds:

### **Recommendation**

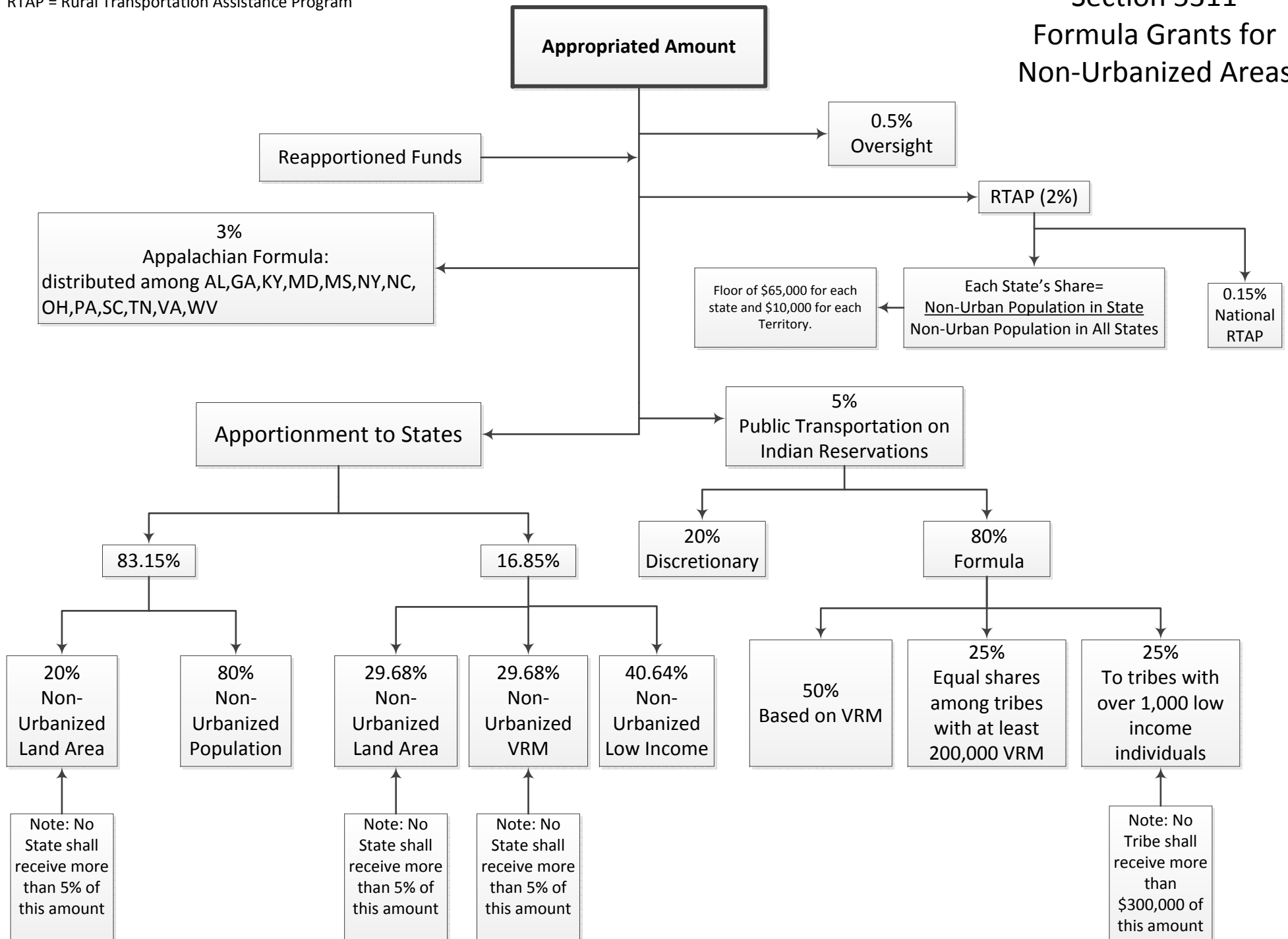
Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve Resolution 24-002 to authorize CalVans to submit the Notice of Intent to apply to receive federal funding under FTA Section 5311.

### **Attachments:**

1. Resolution 24-0002; 5311 Authorizing Resolution

VRM = Vehicle Revenue Miles  
RTAP = Rural Transportation Assistance Program

## Section 5311 Formula Grants for Non-Urbanized Areas





U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

**BIPARTISAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
LAW**

**BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FACT SHEET:**  
**FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS**

Fiscal Year	2022 (in millions)	2023 (in millions)	2024 (in millions)	2025 (in millions)	2026 (in millions)
5311 Rural Formula	\$781	\$797	\$818	\$835	\$856
Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Formula)	\$35	\$36	\$37	\$37	\$38
Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Competitive)	\$9	\$9	\$9	\$9	\$10
Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Program	\$26	\$27	\$28	\$28	\$29
Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)	\$17	\$18	\$18	\$19	\$19
5340 Growing States*	\$112	\$114	\$117	\$120	\$123

\* Note: Section Growing State (Sec. 5340) funds are determined based on a statutory formula and are added to the Rural formula (Sec. 5311). Amounts shown for FY22-26 are based on the proportion of Growing States (Sec. 5340) funds provided in FY 2021.

**Program Purpose:**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, continues the Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program, which provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states and federally recognized Indian tribes to support public transportation in rural areas with populations less than 50,000, where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations. It also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program.

**Statutory References:**

49 U.S.C. § 5311 / IIJA § 30006

**Eligible Recipients:**

- States and federally recognized Indian tribes.
- Subrecipients may include state or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, or operators of public transportation or intercity bus service that receive funds indirectly through a recipient.

**Eligible Activities:**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continues without change the broad range of activities eligible under the formula grants for rural areas program, including:

- Planning
- Public transportation capital projects
- Operating costs of equipment and facilities for use in public transportation
- Job access and reverse commute projects
- Acquisition of public transportation services

**What's Changed?**

- Establishes fixed funding percentages for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations and the Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance programs:
- Five percent of Rural Formula (Section 5311) funding is available for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations program. 20 percent of the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations funds must be distributed on a competitive basis, while the remainder must be apportioned by formula.
- Three percent of Section 5311 funding is available for the Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-002**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA VANPOOL AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING  
THE SUBMISSION OF NOTICE REGARDING FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FTA SECTION 5311 (49  
U.S.C. SECTION 5311) TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital/operating assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1F and FTA C 9050.1); and

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer Section 5311 grants for transportation projects for the general public for the rural transit and intercity bus; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Vanpool Authority (CVA) desires to apply for said financial assistance to permit the operation of service/purchase of capital equipment in Kings County; and

**WHEREAS**, CVA will, to the maximum extent feasible, coordinate with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the CVA Board of Directors does hereby authorize the Executive Director to file and execute documents and applications on behalf of the California Vanpool Authority with the Department to aid in the financing of capital/operating assistance projects pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9040.1G), as amended; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director or his/her designee is authorized to execute and file all certification of assurances, contracts or agreements, or any other document required by the Department; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director or his/her designee is authorized to provide additional information as the Department may require in connection with the application for the Section 5311 projects; and be it

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director or his/her designee is authorized to submit and approve requests for reimbursement of funds from the Department for the Section 5311 project(s).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY** the governing board of the California Vanpool Authority on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve McShane,  
Chairman of the California Vanpool Authority

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgina Landecho,  
Executive Director of the California Vanpool Authority

Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

California Department of Transportation  
Rail and Mass Transportation Division  
1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
[hq.drmt@dot.ca.gov](mailto:hq.drmt@dot.ca.gov)



Re: Request for designated recipient status for Section 5307 and 5311 Federal grant programs - California Vanpool Authority

Good Day CADOT Staff,

This communication will serve as the requisite request for grant recipient identification for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) §5307 and §5311 grant programs. The California Vanpool Authority (CalVans) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of elected officials from six counties, and five cities each representing eleven MPOs respectively. Formed in 2011, CalVans is a registered National Transit Database (NTD) reporter and has submitted the required monthly and annual transit service data. Current operations include a fleet of 953 vans providing a total of 332,125 annual trips and more than 110 million annual passenger miles. CalVans recently secured 403 e-Transits to begin serving our state with zero-emission, telematics-driven, high-occupancy transit service.

As a current recipient of FTA JARC and SJV Air Quality District grant funds, the CalVans Board of Directors requests additional federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53; title 23, United States Code; and other federal statutes as authorized under the §5307 and §5311 program activities administered by the FTA and Caltrans. Please advise us of the next steps and required documents.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 1 (866) 655-5444 or [georgina.landecho@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:georgina.landecho@co.kings.ca.us). Thank you.

Respectfully,

Georgina Landecho  
Executive Director