

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 5/2/11
Reviewed by: BP

Subject: Resolution 2011-21 authorizing city staff to submit and implement the program plan application for the City of Albany Paratransit Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Report By: Isabelle Leduc, Senior Services Supervisor

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve Resolution 2011-21 authorizing staff to submit and implement the program plan application for the City of Albany Paratransit Program for fiscal year 2011-2012.

BACKGROUND

In November 2000, the voters of Alameda County approved the ½ cent sales tax through the passage of Measure B, re-approving the tax measure originally passed in 1986. For the next 15 years the Alameda County Transportation Commission will have responsibility for reviewing plans and administering funds collected from Measure B.

Cities that provide “Special Transportation for Seniors and People with Disabilities” will receive \$4,846,816 in non-mandated funds this fiscal year. Albany expects to receive a total of \$25,555 to administer the Albany Paratransit Program.

DISCUSSION

The City has used Measure B funding to provide the Albany Paratransit Program since 1987. Measure B funds allow the City of Albany to subsidize the cost of travel to residents who are 80 years of age and older and residents 18 years of age or older who find it difficult or impossible to stand at bus stops, walk long distances, or ride AC Transit and BART. East Bay Paratransit Consortium is the main Paratransit provider for the East Bay. East Bay Paratransit provides advanced reservation transportation services covering all of Alameda County. The City of Albany Paratransit Program is a supplemental service to East Bay Paratransit.

To establish eligibility for the Albany Paratransit program, applicants must first fill out a simple one-page application. Albany Senior Center staff provides assistance in filling out the application, if requested. Copies of a California ID, California Drivers License or utility bill are used to establish residency and age eligibility. Certification from East Bay Paratransit or a Medical Statement form signed by a doctor, are documents used to establish eligibility based on disability.

The Albany Paratransit Program relies on local taxi companies to provide eligible Albany residents same day/on demand service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Taxi riders are instructed to pay for the taxi ride up front and then turn in their receipts to the Albany Senior Center for a reimbursement rate of 70% of the fare, up to \$20.00, whichever is least. Wheelchair users get same day on demand transportation by calling Friendly Transportation which maintains wheelchair accessible cabs.

A small portion of Measure B funds will also be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the Senior Van which is used to deliver meals to homebound seniors.

The Albany Senior Center Community Shuttle bus provides door-to-door shopping opportunities to Albany residents 60 years of age and older. The bus picks up riders at their homes, drops them off to shop independently at a local grocery store and drives them home. The driver also helps riders with their grocery bags. There is no fee for this service.

Lastly, with the Albany Senior Center Community Shuttle bus transportation will be provided for recreational group day trips. Many seniors find it difficult to independently travel to places like Point Reyes, San Jose, and San Francisco. This program enhances the lives of seniors as it provides opportunities for social interactions and enjoyment on trips that are safe and designed to suit their needs. Three excursions are planned at a reasonable cost every month. Three walking trips that promote health and wellness are also provided on a monthly basis.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The City's Measure B allotment estimated by the Alameda County Transportation Commission to be \$25,555 for FY11-12 will cover most operational costs associated with the different types of transportation services that the Albany Paratransit Program provides as well as a percentage of the Recreation Supervisor and Recreation Coordinator salaries. Additional operational costs are covered with a GAP Grant that the city received in the FY08-10 which has been extended through FY11-12 to allow for the expenditure of unspent funds.

Attachment
Resolution # 2011-21