



Item #05-12-10
Consent

SACOG Board of Directors

December 8, 2005

Recommendations for the 2006 Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian and Air Quality Funding Programs

Issue: Funding recommendations are ready for SACOG's Bicycle & Pedestrian and Air Quality Funding Programs. The projects were selected by staff-level working groups from SACOG's advisory committees and have been reviewed and approved for reasonable geographic balance by the Grant Programs Overview Committee.

Recommendation: The Transportation & Air Quality Committee recommends that the Board of Directors release the attached project lists for a 30-day period of public review before final approval and programming in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Committee Action/Discussion: The Transportation & Air Quality Committee discussed the issue of geographic balance and asked staff to monitor the use of funds in the programs and revisit the guidelines if reasonable balance is not maintained.

SACOG received 26 applications from jurisdictions and agencies throughout the 4-county region (Sacramento, Yolo, Yuba and Sutter Counties) for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and 11 for the Air Quality Program. El Dorado and Placer Counties, under Memoranda of Understanding with SACOG, perform their own project selection process and submit federally-funded projects to SACOG for later inclusion in the overall regional lists. In the case of the Air Quality Program, many of the recommendations are regional, including all six counties, and SACOG, Placer, and El Dorado staffs are working together to fund these with fair share contributions.

For the Bicycle & Pedestrian Program, recommendations were made by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group, with representatives from SACOG's advisory committees. Each application was carefully considered for its effectiveness in reaching regional goals. For the Air Quality Funding Program, the Working Group was composed of Air Pollution Control Officers of the five air districts and a SACOG representative, and each application was considered for its effectiveness in curbing on-road air emissions.

As a final step, the recommendations of both working groups were reviewed by the Grant Programs Overview Committee to make sure that the projects achieved a *reasonable* geographic balance. All of the committee members endorsed the list of recommended projects, with some caveats. The comments of the Overview Committee members are summarized in Attachment C.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:NK:gg
Attachments

Key Staff: Peter Hathaway, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6235
David Young, Senior Planner, (916) 340-6232
Nancy Kays, Senior Planner, (916) 340-6223

ATTACHMENT C.
DISCUSSION OF THE GRANT PROGRAMS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The members, who represent SACOG's advisory committees and have each served on a funding programs working group, were asked to review the selection of projects for reasonable geographic balance. SACOG's priority is to fund effective projects in all of the funding programs, with the goal of encouraging high quality projects and programs in each of the funding programs in every part of the region over the long term.

Below are selected representative comments from the nine members of the Grant Programs Oversight Committee on the issue of reasonable balance of projects recommended in the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Air Quality Programs. Members were also given information on county population shares and the list of projects selected in the Community Design and Air Quality Programs in the last round of funding. All members endorsed the project list as reasonably balanced, with some caveats.

1. We've done a good job of selecting projects based on the submissions available. Committees must first look at the quality of projects and I know that the committees I have participated in have done just that. There should be some general high level consideration of funding over time on a county-by-county basis for overall consistency and balance, but the goal should be to pick the best projects over time. I support the committee's recommendations. They should be forwarded for approval.
2. I'm supporting the recommendation because I don't believe that we have a long enough history to say that things are out of balance over the long term. If the trends continue, however, we will need to make adjustments in the future.
3. We should wait until the Community Design recommendations are made in order to consider the overall funding in the SACOG region. A simple allocation to jurisdictions based on population doesn't consider the merit of the projects in a regional sense and won't end up in the optimal mix of projects. Review allocations by jurisdiction over time; if an imbalance is discovered in future grant cycles, it can be corrected.
4. There needs to be an acceptable definition of "long-term balance." The fallback definition of the 20-year MTP period should be re-examined. Imbalance is a reality today and pushing it off to the addressed/resolved "in the future" is not fair for jurisdictions currently shorted. Regional balance and balance within counties has not been achieved in the last two funding rounds. Enlarging the funding programs would help with regional balance. The Overview Committee should also be looking at the rest of SACOG's funding, beyond the four funding programs.

Attachment A. Air Quality Funding Program Recommendations*

Lead Applicant	Project Title	Project Description	SACOG Grant	Local Matching Funds	Total Project Cost
YCTD	Free Transit Fares	Provide free transit fares on up to 30 spare the air days.	\$63,000	\$8,110	\$71,110
YCTD	Bus Replacement	Replace four 1993 buses.	\$1,112,000	\$528,334	\$1,640,340
SMAQMD	Urban Forests	Demonstration project to determine the effect trees have on the formation of ozone in the Sacramento ozone federal nonattainment area.	\$642,000	\$83,158	\$725,158
SMAQMD	SIP Development	Develop a plan to meet the new 8-hour ozone standard.	\$625,000	\$80,975	\$705,975
SMAQMD	Spare The Air Program	Regional public outreach program that ask motorists to curb their driving on Spare The Air days.	\$1,200,000	\$380,000	\$1,580,000
		Grand Total	\$3,642,000		

*Funding amounts have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Attachment B. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Recommendations*

	Lead Applicant	Project Title	Project Description	SACOG Grant	Local Matching Funds	Total Project Cost
1	Sacramento County	Pedestrian Master Plan Implementation (Phase I)	Construction of high priority pedestrian improvements identified in the County's <i>Draft Pedestrian Master Plan</i> and the <i>ADA Transition Plan</i> on El Camino Avenue. Includes sidewalk infill and replacement, accessibility improvements at street crossings, and obstacle removal at specific locations. <i>(County had also requested funding for Marconi Ave. and Watt Ave.)</i>	\$1,954,000	\$1,302,800	\$3,256,680
2	Yolo County	County Road 32A Bikeway Improvement Project	Widening and adding of paved shoulders and bike lanes on a 0.8-mile section of County Road 32A between CR 105 and Mace Blvd. east of the City of Davis; this route serves bicyclists who travel between Davis and the Yolo Causeway. Part of a larger \$1.3 million road improvement project.	\$110,000	\$116,604	\$507,000
3	City of Folsom	Humbug-Willow Creek/Lake Natomas Bikeway Gap Closure Project	For construction of a section of trail from Lake Natoma to Blue Ravine, to complete the last gap in the 16-mile Humbug-Willow trail system.	\$534,000	\$64,000	\$598,000
4	City of Galt	Northeast Bicycle Lane and Pedestrian Connection Project	Construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements on East Stockton Boulevard and Twin Cities Road (Segments 1, 2, and 3). <i>(City had also requested funding for two</i>	\$365,000	\$47,293	\$412,293

			<i>other segments, 4 and 5).</i>			
5	City of Elk Grove	Elk Grove Creek/ State Route 99 Trail Crossing Project	Construction of a bicycle and pedestrian crossing over SR 99 to close a current trail gap. Crosses SR 99 between Laguna Springs Drive and Emerald Park Drive.	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
6	Yuba County	Lindhurst Avenue Bikeway Project – Phase One	Class II bikeway along Lindhurst Ave., connecting the Olivehurst area with North Beale Road/Marysville section.	\$350,000	\$40,000	\$390,000
7	City of Sacramento	I-80 Bike and Pedestrian Bridge at the West Canal	Purchase of right-of-way for an overcrossing of I-80 between North Natomas and South Natomas.	\$381,000	\$49,321	\$430,321
8	City of Rancho Cordova	City of Rancho Cordova Bicycle Master Plan	A Bicycle Master Plan to establish policies, programs and projects to implement a citywide bicycle system in Rancho Cordova.	\$159,000	\$20,646	\$179,646
9	City of Wheatland	City of Wheatland Bike Master Plan	A Bike Master Plan to establish a comprehensive bike system and design new development to foster walking and bicycling.	\$27,000	\$4,588	\$31,588
			Grand Total	\$4,880,000		

*Funding amounts have been rounded to the nearest thousand.