



SACOG Board of Directors

February 11, 2009

Approve Approach and Project List for Stimulus Bill for Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Jurisdictions

Issue: Should the Board 1) authorize the attached Economic Recovery Act project list and inherent policy recommendations and 2) change the funding distribution formula for Rehabilitation projects from the current 100% population formula to 75% population/25% lane miles?

Recommendation: Because of the urgency with which the Economic Recovery Act has been moving through the U.S. Congress, there was not time to get a list of projects to the GRPA Committee prior to its meeting; as a result, the Committee recommended forwarding the item to the Board, but without a specific recommendation.

Committee Action/Discussion: As of the date of this memo, the House and Senate have both approved respective Economic Recovery Act bills, the purpose of which is to create jobs all across the economic spectrum, including the transportation sector. Congressional leadership went to conference on February 10th and is pressing for immediate reconciliation of differences in the two versions with the goal of having a bill that the President can sign on February 16th. Considering the short project delivery deadlines likely to be included in the compromise bill for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, staff felt it was important to have as complete a package of projects as possible for the Board's review and action at its February 19th meeting. (The House Bill calls for fund obligation within 75 days of Presidential signing.)

At the January Board meeting, staff was directed to refine the list of projects and to do so in a manner that was as transparent as possible. Over the last several weeks, staff has convened separate meetings of the four county representatives and staffs from all six counties in the SACOG region. Jurisdictions unanimously urged the programming of STP funds for Rehabilitation projects and recommended incorporation of sustainable elements, where possible; i.e. Bike/Ped, ADA, 'Green', and Complete Streets. We have vetted our recommended approach and project lists with the Regional Planning Partnership, the DPW Directors, and the Bike/Ped Committee. In addition, the package has been reviewed by all four regular SACOG Committees.

The project list is organized as follows: STP Projects (\$32M +/- available funds); Transportation Enhancements (TE) Projects (\$3M +/- available funds); and STIP/State Projects (\$45M +/- available funds). Our main focus to date has been on the STP projects because the State has not yet determined how it will distribute the funds under its control (TE and STIP/State projects).

Staff's recommendations are as follows: 1) Approve the STP Projects, Tier I (Ready To Go), Tier II (Backup List), and Tier III (Supplemental Projects, If Additional Funds Become Available); 2) Endorse the TE and STIP/State projects as a pool of jobs from which TE and STIP/State projects can be drawn, contingent on criteria included in the final Federal legislation and Caltrans' determination of funding levels; 3) Re. STP projects, endorse procedure whereby all \$32M +/- in available funds be obligated within the initial period (75 days, if deadlines in the House bill prevail); 4) assuming again that the House deadlines maintain, approve an STP internal deadline of 45 days for submittal of Request for Authorization forms to Caltrans, after which Tier II Backup Projects can come forward to compete for funds (exceptions to be considered on a case-by-case basis if requested within 15 days of bill signing); and 5) Consider whether or not the Board wishes to revise its current policy of distributing Rehabilitation funds to Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba jurisdictions on a population basis or to change to a 75% population/25% lane mile basis (see attached spread sheet for a comparison of individual agency funding levels).

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

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Attachments

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