



## **SACOG Board of Directors**

March 11, 2009

### **Approve Programming Approach and Project List for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding from the State (Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Jurisdictions)**

**Issue:** (1) Should SACOG approve the approach and project list for the portion of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) expected to flow to the region from the State of California; (2) should SACOG commit to program additional funds to Sacramento County in the fall 2009 programming round as it indicated it would in January 2008; and (3) should SACOG consider a separate Caltrans proposal to partner on the U.S. 50 HOV project?

**Recommendation:** The Transportation Committee recommended that the Board: (1) approve both the approach and list of projects for the second portion of the ARRA funding expected to come to the region from the state; (2) commit to program additional funds to Sacramento County as part of the fall 2009 programming round; and (3) continue to hold discussions with Caltrans to consider whether or not to recommend to the Board a partnership proposal that would allow the U.S. 50 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) project to go forward.

**Committee Action/Discussion:** President Obama signed the ARRA into law on February 17, 2009. The transportation funds under SACOG's purview fall under two primary categories: "highway" or "flexible" transportation funds and transit funds. Staff has been leading separate yet parallel processes for programming projects for both of these funding categories. For the highway/flexible funds—which are administered by the Federal Highway Administration—staff has identified three different sub-categories of funding. Under the law, 30 percent of the funding to the state under this category is to be sub-allocated directly to the regions. (This is the \$32 million which was programmed to rehabilitation projects in the four-county region at the February 19 Board meeting.) Another sub-category of funding is expected to come to the regions from the state, either through an expedited State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process or directly programmed by the regions. This amount is estimated to be as much as \$38 million for the four-county region. The third sub-category consists of Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds, estimated to be about \$2 million for our region. Exactly what amount will be available or what process will be used for these last two sub-categories is still unknown, but is likely to be discussed at the California Transportation Commission meeting on March 11 and 12 and should be resolved shortly by means of a bill moving through the California Legislature.

In order to keep moving forward, staff has developed (1) draft screening criteria and evaluation policies to help identify a \$40 million list of candidate projects for the four-county region (from the larger list presented at the February 19 Board meeting); (2) guidelines for implementing the state/TE projects; and (3) a recommended list of state/TE projects. Staff has reviewed the approach and draft list with staffs from the Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba county jurisdictions and has provided overview briefings to the Regional Planning Partnership and the Planners' Committee.

The original draft project list included in the Transportation Committee agenda packet included Sacramento County's Hazel Avenue project for \$10 million. The project was subsequently withdrawn prior to the committee meeting, as Caltrans had informed county staff that it would be ineligible for ARRA funding.

SACOG staff moved in substitute projects, including \$3 million for the county's ADA Transition Plan Implementation and another \$3.15 million for Traffic Signal Coordination. Director Peters voiced disappointment that the remaining \$3.85 million was programmed to other jurisdictions and not for additional rehabilitation projects in the county. She also reiterated a previous commitment to getting additional funds after previous programming rounds in which the county agreed to take programming at a later date so that others could take funding for projects that were ready to build at the time. The committee recommended that the Board honor this commitment.

As directed by the Board in February, staff met with Caltrans on February 26 regarding its proposal for SACOG to program \$40 million in ARRA funds to the U.S. 50 HOV lane project. Staff does not recommend programming \$40 million in ARRA funds to the project at this time, because Caltrans cannot guarantee that it will pay back SACOG in similarly flexible funding and cannot guarantee a date by which the funds would be repaid. Staff has explored several other options between the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and the date of this memo, one of which would be using funds from undelivered projects in the 2009 Delivery Plan. Yet another option would be for SACOG to consider borrowing funds from another regional agency, assuming favorable terms to SACOG and an acceptable payback arrangement. Consideration of most of these options would require a CTC commitment to repay the Proposition 1B bond funds from the first bond sale for new transportation projects.

The committee agreed that staff should continue to discuss this issue with Caltrans. Staff is still trying to work out the details and determine the feasibility of this approach and will bring a recommendation to the Board.

Staff has left approximately \$500,000 unprogrammed in part because (1) a final estimate of funds is not yet available and (2) to allow some flexibility for other programming options. One option would be to program additional projects, while another possibility would be to fund some portion of staff time through an administrative fee. This option will be discussed further as part of the agenda item on the 2009-10 budget.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever  
Executive Director

MM:OW:JC:gg  
Attachments

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**DRAFT SCREENING CRITERIA AND EVALUATION PRINCIPLES FOR  
AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

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Overriding Principle: Use Up All Funds Available to the Region  
(Do Not Lose Any Funds)

**Screening Criteria**

1. Creates jobs
2. Deliverability/readiness (90 days to submit paperwork; 120 days to obligate funds)
3. Construction only (exceptions on case-by-case basis)
4. Air quality exempt (or non-exempt projects that do not require a new conformity analysis)
5. National Environmental Policy Act categorically exempt or already cleared
6. On existing lists (bicycle/pedestrian, Delivery Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, stimulus submittal, etc.)
7. Can be completed within three years

**Evaluation Principles**

1. Regional projects
2. Draw from 2009 Delivery Plan as feasible
3. Take advantage of partnership/leverage opportunities with other agencies
4. Make existing projects whole
5. Utilize Metropolitan Transportation Plan Principles
  - a. Access & Mobility
  - b. Equity & Choice
  - c. Financial Stewardship
  - d. Economic Vitality
  - e. Smart Land Use
  - f. Environmental Quality & Sustainability
6. Provide fair regional distribution, as feasible

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE/TE PORTION OF  
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**

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1. All Tier I projects to have a completed Request For Authorization (RFA) form to Caltrans no later than May 29, 2009.
2. An exception to the requirement of No. 1 above is the City of Sacramento's Intermodal Project (\$20M), which has until December 1, 2009, to submit a completed RFA to Caltrans.
3. Tier II projects should complete an RFA as soon as possible and submit it to Caltrans with a request that the project be held in order received and processed if there should be any funds available after May 29, 2009.
4. Caltrans should hold a reserve of \$20 million for the City of Sacramento's Intermodal Project after May 29, 2009, but any remaining funds on that date should be released to Tier I or Tier II projects on a first come, first served basis.
5. If the RFA for the City of Sacramento's Intermodal Project has not been submitted by December 1, 2009, the City of West Sacramento's Harbor Boulevard Project (\$28M) shall be considered the priority backup project. West Sacramento should submit an RFA to Caltrans no later than December 1, 2009. It is expected that the remaining \$8 million will be provided via a project swap in which \$8 million in RSTP projects will be moved into the STIP and RSTP funds used to backfill the Harbor project.
6. In the event that the Intermodal project is unable to get an RFA to Caltrans by December 1, 2009, or the Harbor project does not go forward, Tier II projects will be used to backfill the \$20 million in available Stimulus dollars. If for some reason, there should be insufficient projects ready, rehabilitation projects will be considered in order not to lose any available dollars to the region.
7. In the event the State is seeking additional candidate projects for Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds, staff shall forward to Caltrans all TE-eligible projects on this list.
8. The Executive Director requests authority from the Board to program any Tier II or III road rehabilitation project, any Tier II STIP/TE project or any other previously listed economic stimulus candidate project in order to prevent the potential loss of funds if insufficient project delivery has taken place and there is a lack of back up projects submitted by the respective deadlines of May 29, 2009, and December 1, 2009.

# DRAFT

Proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Phase 2 Candidate Projects (Revised Draft)					
Lead Agency	Project Title		TE Eligible	Source	Request for Authorization Submittal Date
<b>Tier 1</b>					
City of Citrus Heights	Greenback Lane Pedestrian Safety Project	\$1,500,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	4/21/2009
City of Elk Grove	I-5/Elk Grove Blvd Northbound On Ramp	\$200,000		Stimulus STIP	4/21/2009
City of Elk Grove	Intelligent Transportation System	\$1,000,000		Stimulus STIP	4/21/2009
City of Folsom	East Bidwell Bike/Ped Overcrossing	\$850,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	4/1/2009
City of Galt	ADA Sidewalk Improvements	\$300,000		Stimulus STIP	5/1/2009
City of Isleton	West End Road Rehabilitation	\$19,000		Stimulus STIP	
City of Rancho Cordova	International Drive Extension & Folsom South Canal Bridge	\$1,050,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	5/1/2009
City of Sacramento	Intermodal Track Relocation	\$20,000,000		Stimulus STIP	10/1/2009
Sacramento County	ADA Transition Plan Implementation	\$3,000,000		Stimulus STIP	4/22/2009
Sacramento County	Traffic Signal System Upgrade	\$3,150,000		Stimulus STIP	4/22/2009
SMAQMD	Bicycle Parking (Racks)	\$310,000	Yes	Tier 2/3	12/15/2008
City of Live Oak	Apricot Street Road Rehabilitation	\$120,000		Stimulus STIP	5/1/2009
City of Yuba City	Bridge Street Revitalization & Enhancements	\$1,900,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	4/16/2009
City of Davis	Second Street Ped/Transit Improvements	\$650,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	5/1/2009
City of Davis	Bikeway Rehabilitation	\$600,000		Stimulus STIP	5/1/2009
City of West Sacramento	Cemex Rail Access	\$600,000		Stimulus STIP	4/22/2009
City of Woodland	Main Street Lighting Project	\$300,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	5/15/2009
Unitrans	Unitrans Replacement Buses	\$1,000,000		Stimulus STIP	
Yolo County	CR 99, CR 29 & CR 99D Bikeways	\$368,568	Yes (partially)	Tier 3	2/1/2009
City of Marysville	Third Street Pavement Rehabilitation	\$1,159,000		Stimulus STIP	3/27/2009
Yuba County	Willow Glen Road Rehabilitation	\$941,000		Stimulus STIP	3/20/2009
City of Wheatland	Main Street Road Rehabilitation	\$450,000		Stimulus STIP	3/22/2009
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$39,467,568</b>			
<b>TE-Eligible Subtotal</b>		<b>\$6,928,568</b>			
<b>Tier 2</b>					
City of Elk Grove	Intelligent Transportation System	\$4,000,000		Stimulus STIP	4/21/2009
City of Elk Grove	E-Tran Replacement Buses	\$1,000,000		Stimulus STIP	
City of Rancho Cordova	International Drive Extension & Folsom South Canal Bridge	\$7,550,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	5/1/2009
SRTD	Bus Maintenance Facility	\$6,200,000		Stimulus STIP	
City of West Sacramento	Reconstruction of Tower Bridge Gateway	\$4,000,000		Stimulus STIP	4/22/2009
City of West Sacramento	US 50 Harbor Blvd Interchange	\$28,500,000		Stimulus STIP	
Unitrans	Unitrans Replacement Buses	\$3,018,633		Stimulus STIP	
Various	West Sacramento Streetcar Project *	\$500,000		* Project not yet federalized	
City of Marysville	Marysville Traffic Signal Upgrade Project	\$1,500,000		Stimulus STIP	3/22/2009
City of Marysville	Highway 20 and 70 Beautification Project	\$1,400,000	Yes	Stimulus TE	3/22/2009
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$57,668,633</b>			
<b>TE-Eligible Subtotal</b>		<b>\$8,950,000</b>			
<b>Total Additional ARRA Programming</b>		<b>\$97,136,201</b>			
<b>TE-Eligible Total</b>		<b>\$15,878,568</b>			