



Transportation Committee

July 29, 2009

Fall Programming Process

Issue: SACOG staff is preparing for the biennial programming round scheduled to take place this fall. Several activities are underway to help ensure a successful, transparent, and equitable programming process.

Recommendation: That the Transportation Committee provide any feedback to staff related to the fall programming process.

Discussion: SACOG staff began a project to improve transparency and equity in the programming process last fall. Work on this has proceeded somewhat more slowly than anticipated, due to the addition of programming activities this year resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Staff has held peer review sessions with the Fresno Council of Governments (COG), San Joaquin COG, the San Diego Association of Governments, and will be holding one with the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission. These sessions have focused on sharing information on programming processes, criteria, and equity considerations.

Work is also underway with individual program managers to update the processes and guidelines for the air quality, bike/pedestrian, community design, and transportation demand management (TDM) funding programs. Staff is also proposing a new process and guidelines for the largest funding program—the “regional/local” funding program. Using the policies of the MTP and criteria used in other funding programs and by our peer programming agencies, staff has been developing draft performance considerations for the regional/local funding program. A programming process “brainstorming” session was held at the July 23rd Regional Planning Partnership meeting, and a performance considerations workshop is being developed for August 17th. Staff will e-mail Committee members an attachment of policy issues to consider in advance of the August 6 meeting.

It is anticipated that the fall programming process will proceed in a similar manner to those used for the other SACOG funding programs, as well as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding round. Stakeholder input is being sought at all stages of the process. There are still a number of uncertainties related to the state budget and how much funding can be expected to come out of the 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding process managed by the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The CTC typically releases a new fund estimate every two years in July (of odd-numbered years); however, the CTC delayed releasing the draft fund estimate, and its staff now estimates it will not be released until August/September with adoption of the final fund estimate in October. This will also delay the due date for the submittal of SACOG’s projects to the CTC from December 15 to February 15, meaning that Board adoption of our fall program will now be scheduled for the January 2010 meeting. Until the fund estimate is released, staff can only estimate what funding will be available for this fall programming round. The following is staff’s preliminary draft estimate of a range of funding that could be available:

Air Quality Program	\$7.2m - \$9.4m
TDM	\$2.4m - \$2.4m
Community Design	\$12m - \$22.2m
Bike/Ped	\$8.6m - \$16m
Regional/Local	\$69.8m - \$100m
Total Range	\$100m-\$150m

These numbers will be adjusted when the CTC's draft fund estimate becomes available. Staff will continue to update the Transportation Committee and Board as the process advances and will be seeking input at all stages of the process.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:OW:JPC:GT:gg

Key Staff: Matt Carpenter, Director of Transportation Planning, (916) 340-6276
Olin Woods, Manager of Capital Programs, (916) 340-6220
Jason Crow, Senior Planner, (916) 340-6219
Gary Taylor, Associate Planner, (916) 340-6279

S:\SACOG\Board\Transportation Committee\2009\August\6-Fall Programming Process.doc 1000402