



Item #14-1-2 Action

Strategic Planning Committee

December 20, 2013

Submission of Applications for FY 2014-15 Caltrans Transportation Planning Discretionary Grants

Issue: Should SACOG submit applications to Caltrans for available Transportation Planning Discretionary Grants?

Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend that the Board approve a resolution for projects to be submitted to Caltrans for discretionary funding and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the funding agreements associated with these grants.

Discussion: Caltrans issued a call on November 21, 2013, for projects for its discretionary transportation planning grant programs. A summary of the FY 2014-15 grant program is shown in Attachment A. There are several notable changes to the grant program this year:

- The deadline is two months earlier than in prior years – February 3, 2014, instead of early April.
- Caltrans has put a one-year hiatus on the Environmental Justice and Community-Based Transportation Planning grant programs.
- The FY 2014-15 cycle includes three grant programs: Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation; Transit Planning for Sustainable Communities; and Transit Planning for Rural Communities, which also includes the former Transit Planning Student Internship grants.
- Only Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are allowed to submit applications. Cities, counties, transit agencies, and others are only eligible to apply as sub-applicants.

On December 9, 2013, SACOG issued guidance to transit operators and member agencies requesting information on any projects for which they might want SACOG to submit a Caltrans grant application on their behalf. Pass-through grant proposals from outside agencies are reviewed by SACOG staff to ensure that the proposals fit the purpose of the grant programs. Because of the short timeframe this cycle, SACOG asked for all potential project concepts no later than January 3, 2014.

The list of potential applications will be provided to the Strategic Planning Committee at the January 6, 2014, meeting. During early January, SACOG staff will continue to work with any sub-applicants on potential applications. A final list of grant applications being moved forward, including brief summaries of each of the proposed planning projects, will be provided to the Board at its January 16 meeting, pending Board approval.

Attachment B contains the resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to submit the grant applications.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:SS:gg
Attachments

Key Staff: Matt Carpenter, Director of Transportation Services, (916) 340-6276
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Transportation Planning Grant Summary Chart

GRANT	FUND SOURCE	PURPOSE	WHO MAY APPLY	LOCAL MATCH
Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation	Federal Highway Administration— State Planning and Research, Part 1 State Highway Account Budget Federal and State funds \$2,500,000 Grant Cap \$300,000	Fund transportation planning studies of multi-regional and statewide significance, in partnership with local agencies that align with Sustainable Communities Strategy implementation.	<p>The following are eligible to apply as a direct applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies • Caltrans District 4 Only: Transit Agencies; Cities and Counties; Native American Tribal Governments <p>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit Agencies • Universities and Community Colleges • Native American Tribal Governments • Cities and Counties • Community-Based Organizations • Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3) • Other Public Entities** 	20% minimum (in non-federal funds or an in-kind* contribution). The entire minimum 20% local match may be in the form of an in-kind contribution. Additional local funds above the minimum local match are desired.
Transit Planning for Sustainable Communities	Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 Budget Federal funds \$1,800,000 Grant Cap \$300,000	Fund studies on transit issues having statewide or multi-regional significance to assist in reducing congestion.		11.47% minimum (in non-federal funds or an in-kind* contribution). The entire minimum 11.47% local match may be in the form of an in-kind contribution.
Transit Planning for Rural Communities	Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 Budget Federal funds \$1,000,000 Grant Cap \$100,000	Fund public transportation planning studies in rural or small urban areas of California (transit service area with population of 100,000 or less). Transit Planning Student Internships are also eligible within this program (\$50,000 cap).		

* For in-kind contribution requirements, refer to the [Grant Program Overview](#) section in this Guide.

** Public entities include state agencies, the Regents of the University of California, district, public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the State (Government Code Section 811.2). **Redevelopment agencies are not eligible applicants or sub-applicants.**

Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation

Funding

The Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation grant program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (State Planning and Research, Part I). The Federal Highway Administration has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds.

Approximately \$2.5 million will be available for the fiscal year 2014-15 grant cycle. The maximum amount per grant cannot exceed \$300,000.

This budget includes a one-time increase of \$1 million in State Highway Account funds from the Environmental Justice and Community-Based Transportation Planning grant program hiatus.

Grant Specific Program Objective

The objective of the Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation Program is to encourage or strengthen multi-agency and/or government-to-government partnerships. The projects must have a statewide and/or regional benefit and may include partnering with local agencies to develop plans that align with SB 375 SCS implementation. The anticipated benefits of the project must ultimately result in improvements to the statewide or regional transportation system.

Example Project Types

- Studies that lead to SB 375 SCS implementation
- Studies that identify regional, inter-county, and/or statewide mobility and access needs
- Corridor studies and corridor preservation studies
- Projects that evaluate transportation issues involving ground access to international borders, seaports, airports, intermodal facilities, freight hubs, and recreational sites

Transit Planning

Funding

The Transit Planning Grant Program is funded by the Federal Transit Administration (Section 5304). The Federal Transit Administration has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds. Funding distribution will depend on the quality and amount of applications for each Transit Planning program.

Transit Planning for Sustainable Communities

An estimated \$1.8 million will be available for the fiscal year 2014-15 grant cycle. The maximum amount per grant cannot exceed \$300,000.

Grant Specific Program Objective

The objective of the Transit Planning for Sustainable Communities Grant Program is to address transit planning issues of statewide or regional significance. The proposed planning studies are intended to improve transit services and to facilitate congestion relief by offering a sustainable alternative to the single occupant vehicle.

Example Project Types

- Identification of policies and procedures to integrate transit into the transportation system planning process
- Statewide transit planning surveys and research
- Identification of policies, strategies, and programs to preserve transit facilities and optimize transit infrastructure
- Projects that evaluate accessibility and connectivity of the multi-modal transportation network

Transit Planning for Rural Communities

An estimated \$1,000,000 will be available for the fiscal year 2014-15 grant cycle. The maximum amount per grant cannot exceed \$100,000. The maximum grant amount for student internships is \$50,000.

Grant Specific Program Objective

The objective of the Transit Planning for Rural Communities Grant Program is to help with the technical planning for the operation and maintenance of a sustainable transit system. The intent is to support transit and/or intermodal planning studies that show benefit to rural or small urban service areas with a population of 100,000 and less.

Student internships in transit planning at public transportation agencies may be applied for under this grant program. The objective of student internships is to provide students an opportunity to gain work experience in transit planning at public transportation agencies. The intent is to foster the education of university and community college students with an interest in the field of transit planning. Internships are for students only. The application, including the project scope of work and timeline, should strike a balance between administration of the internship program and the specific intern assignments to be completed.

Example Project Types

- Short-range transit development plans
- Transit marketing plans
- Site selection studies
- Transit service implementation plans
- Ridership surveys
- Social service improvement studies
- Student Internships



SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. X – 2014

APPROVING CALTRANS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE THE FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR AWARDED GRANTS

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization and one of the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies responsible for transportation planning in the Sacramento region; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is offering an opportunity for SACOG and sub-applicants through SACOG to apply for the FY 2014-15 cycle of Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants; and

WHEREAS, approval is requested for grant applications to be submitted by February 3, 2014, and for the Chief Executive Officer to execute funding agreements between SACOG and the State of California Department of Transportation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SACOG Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to submit Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant applications for FY 2014-15, and authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute any grant agreements necessary to receive grant funds, or other funds that may be available, for the purpose of developing and implementing the grant application projects in the Sacramento Region.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 16th day of January 2014, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Mary Jane Griego
Chair

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer