



Transportation Committee

May 8, 2014

Submission of Application for Cycle 1 of the State Active Transportation Program

Issue: Should SACOG submit a grant application to Caltrans for available Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds?

Recommendation: That the Transportation Committee directly authorize the Chief Executive Officer to submit a regional application to the statewide Active Transportation Program, since grant applications must be submitted by May 21, prior to the May 29 Board of Directors meeting. This recommendation is supported by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Discussion: Caltrans issued a call for projects for the statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP) on March 21, 2014, with applications due May 21, 2014. The ATP combines many federal and state funding streams previously used for bicycle, pedestrian, safety, and other related purposes (e.g., Safe Routes to School, Transportation Enhancements) into one funding stream with broad eligibilities. The goals of the ATP are to:

- Increase the proportion of biking and walking trips.
- Increase safety for nonmotorized users.
- Increase mobility for nonmotorized users.
- Advance the efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Enhance public health, including the reduction of childhood obesity through the use of projects eligible for Safe Routes to Schools Program funding.
- Ensure disadvantaged communities fully share in program benefits (25 percent of program).
- Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

SACOG ATP Application

SACOG is eligible to apply for statewide ATP funds as a regional transportation planning agency. SACOG staff discussed a potential project with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) on April 24, 2014. The BPAC was supportive of the project and encouraged SACOG staff to develop and submit an application.

The proposed project focuses on collecting data, identifying barriers, and improving education about walking and biking within disadvantaged communities in the Transit Priority Areas (TPAs) identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy in the four-county region. The project would cross city and county jurisdictional boundaries and focus on three efforts supporting increased walking and biking for transportation within the TPAs:

1. Collect bike and pedestrian infrastructure data in TPAs lacking it to digitize into GIS. This data will provide SACOG and local agencies much-needed information that can be utilized for planning, modeling, and grant application purposes.

2. Work with stakeholders and communities that live and/or work in the TPAs to identify barriers to walking and biking for transportation, utilizing the newly collected infrastructure data to help community members review and understand current conditions, such as sidewalk and connectivity gaps; and
3. Build upon May is Bike Month (MIBM) success by expanding and incorporating as part of the MIBM campaign educational information and activities targeted to multi-lingual groups, and focusing on safety for active transportation in the TPAs.

SACOG staff is seeking Transportation Committee approval to submit an application for this project to the statewide ATP funding program prior to Caltrans' deadline of May 21, 2014. The anticipated funding request for this grant application is \$750,000; staff will continue to refine cost estimates prior to submitting the application. If the Committee approves the recommendation, this item will also be brought to the SACOG Board on the Consent calendar at the May 29, 2014, meeting for affirmation.

Local Agency ATP Applications

Local agencies within the SACOG region have been encouraged to pursue applications to the statewide ATP for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects, and it appears that there may be a number of local applications. Statewide ATP applications may be submitted by local agencies directly to Caltrans; project sponsors for projects within the six-county region are only required to submit a copy of the final application to SACOG as the region's MPO. Project sponsors are welcome to contact SACOG staff for assistance in developing applications, including providing data, maps, and letters of support.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:LSH:VC:gg

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