



## Item #14-10-4 Action

### Transportation Committee

September 25, 2014

#### Submission of Applications for FY 2015-16 Caltrans Transportation Planning Discretionary Grants

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

**Recommendation:** That the Transportation 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 September 2, 2014, for projects for its discretionary transportation planning grant programs. A summary of the FY 2015-16 grant program is shown in Attachment A. There are several notable changes to the grant program this year:

- The deadline is far earlier than in the last cycle – October 2014 instead of February 2015 – with project starts as early as July 2015.
- The FY 2015-16 cycle includes only two grant categories: Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Communities.
- Only Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies are allowed to submit applications in the Strategic Partnership category, with cities, counties, transit agencies, and others eligible as subrecipients.
- MPOs, cities, counties, and transit agencies are all eligible to apply directly for Sustainable Communities grants.

On September 2, 2014, SACOG issued guidance to member agencies and transit agencies requesting information on any projects for which they might want SACOG to submit a Caltrans grant application on their behalf. Because local agencies are now allowed to submit applications for the Sustainable Communities program directly to Caltrans, SACOG did not receive any pass-through grant requests.

In the three weeks since the guidance was issued, staff has been assessing potential SACOG-led projects for grant applications. A list of potential SACOG applications will be provided to the Transportation Committee by the time of its October 2 meeting. A final list of grant applications that SACOG wishes to move forward, including brief summaries of each of the proposed projects, will be provided to the Board at its October 16 meeting.

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  
Sharon Spowls, Senior Program Specialist, (916) 340-6235  
Barbara VaughanBechtold, Associate Planner, (916) 340-6226

## Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Summary Chart

GRANT	FUND SOURCE	PURPOSE	WHO MAY APPLY	LOCAL MATCH
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strategic Partnerships</b></p>	<p>Federal Highway Administration— State Planning and Research, Part 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Budget</b> Federal funds \$1,500,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grant Min</b> \$100,000 <b>Grant Max</b> \$500,000</p>	<p>Funds transportation planning studies of interregional and statewide significance, in partnership with Caltrans.</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sustainable Communities</b></p>	<p>Federal Transit Administration, Section 5304 &amp; State Highway Account</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Budget</b> Federal/State funds \$8,300,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grant Min</b> \$50,000 <b>Grant Max</b> \$500,000</p>	<p>Funds studies of multimodal transportation issues having statewide, interregional, regional or local significance to assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and overarching objectives.</p>	<p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies</li> <li>• Transit Agencies; Cities and Counties; Native American Tribal Governments</li> </ul> <p><b>The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit Agencies</li> <li>• Universities and Community Colleges</li> <li>• Native American Tribal Governments</li> <li>• Cities and Counties</li> <li>• Community-Based Organizations</li> <li>• Non-Profit Organizations (501.C.3)</li> <li>• Other Public Entities**</li> </ul>	<p>11.47% minimum (in cash or an in-kind* contribution). The entire minimum 11.47% local match may be in the form of an in-kind contribution.</p>

\* For in-kind contribution requirements, refer to Page 10 of 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).



**SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. X – 2014**

**APPROVING CALTRANS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 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 2015-16 cycle of Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants; and

**WHEREAS**, approval is requested for grant applications to be submitted by October 31, 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 2015-16, 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

---

Steve Cohn  
Chair

---

Mike McKeever  
Chief Executive Officer