



**Land Use and Natural Resources
Committee**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2018

Agenda Item No.: 2018-March-5.

Subject: 2018 SACOG Regional Flexible Funding Round: Calendar and Concepts

(1:50) Information:

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Approved by: Kacey Lizon

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

What is the proposed calendar and key concepts for the agency's next Regional Flexible Funding Round?

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information and discussion only.

3. Background/Analysis:

Every two to three years, SACOG conducts a competitive programming round to allocate funds to transportation projects in the four-county region comprised of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. Jurisdictions in El Dorado and Placer counties apply to separate programs through the El Dorado County Transportation Commission and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, respectively. The SACOG flexible funding round allocates four-county regional funds to projects based on available apportionments of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and SACOG managed funds.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Since the adoption of the Blueprint, the SACOG Board of Directors has continued to prioritize a competitive regional program to fund cost-effective transportation projects that implement the performance benefits of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). SACOG will conduct its next flexible funding round this calendar year. The purpose of this staff item is to introduce and seek Board feedback on the key concepts underpinning this next iteration of the funding round, as well as provide the funding round calendar. Future staff presentations will describe in more depth the estimate of funding availability, as well as proposed revisions and enhancements to the individual programs within the agency's overarching flexible funding round.

2018 Funding Round Key Concepts

In 2017, SACOG sought feedback from each jurisdiction in the four-county region on the agency's prior flexible funding round. As in all prior cycles, staff also conducted an internal review to identify areas of enhancement and improvement to the program. From these efforts staff developed three areas of focus that build off the agency's existing funding round framework: **data/analytics**, **streamlined application**, and **updated calendar**.

Transparent and uniform data/analytics

After numerous meetings with a working group of local jurisdictions and broader stakeholders in 2017, staff is incorporating a set of Project Performance Assessment (PPA) data into the flexible funding round. This tool operationalizes, by funding round outcomes, the numerous data sources SACOG maintains into a robust series of performance measures for individual transportation projects. The tool provides a comprehensive, consistent, uniform, and transparent regional data set to add a quantitative component to the round, support the application evaluation process, and reduce the data demands placed on local project sponsors. Staff is holding a webinar on February 22, for future applicants to learn about the PPA tool, and be able to test it and provide feedback to SACOG before it is finalized for the application process.

Streamlined application

In feedback to SACOG staff, project sponsors requested a streamlined funding round process. Comments were made about the resource outlay to develop separate applications for programs with similar goals. Traditionally SACOG has conducted its competitive funding round through three distinct programs: 1) Regional/Local, 2) Bicycle & Pedestrian, and 3) Community Design. For the 2018 round, staff proposes merging the Bicycle & Pedestrian program into the Regional/Local program, with a minimum target for active transportation investments focused on context-sensitive projects that will increase user comfort to bike and walk. Staff is also working on integrating the TDM innovation program and the Green Region Plan to electrify and clean the transportation fleet as specific new focus areas for the Regional/Local program. The Community Design framework would remain substantively the same as prior cycles, except for the enhanced quantitative analysis and slight administrative changes to the application.

Staff believes this streamlining along with a minimum target for active modes and a focus on context-sensitive design has notable performance benefits, preserves the agency's historical commitment to funding active transportation projects, and recognizes the holistic nature of evaluating transportation investments. Likewise, the merger of two programs facilitates staff's work to improve the application itself and incorporate the project performance assessment tool. In the next two months, staff will present the framework and specific guidelines for each of these competitive funding programs. Attachment A shows the proposed structure of the 2018 competitive funding round in relation to the prior cycle.

Updated calendar

In 2013, the State established the Active Transportation Program with a statewide and six-county regional program. The passage of Senate Bill 1 adds new revenue sources to fund transportation investments, and local jurisdictions will be applying to numerous new state competitive programs this year. SACOG encourages project sponsors to maximize the opportunities presented through statewide and other funding sources to bring additional funding into the region. As such, staff proposes staggering SACOG's flexible funding round to avoid overlapping with other competitive state funding rounds. Staff plans to ask the Board to authorize release of the Community Design program call for projects in April, with applications due in late June, and to release the call for projects for the Regional/Local program in May, with applications due in late July. Project evaluation for both programs would occur in late summer through early fall. Staff would release a draft funding round recommendation for Board consideration by year's end. Attachment B provides a more detailed proposed calendar of the 2018 funding round.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no fiscal impact to the agency's operating budget other than staff time that is already budgeted for. A more detailed budget for expenditure of state and federal transportation funds in the 2018 funding round will be brought to the board in April.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Attachment A

Attachment B

Regional and Active Transportation Competitive Funding Rounds: Past and Current Cycle

	Active Transportation Program		SACOG Competitive Funding Round		
2015 Funding Round					
Eligible Geographies	Statewide	Six-County Region	Four-County Region (Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties)		
Funding Program	State Active Transportation	Regional Active Transportation	Bicycle & Pedestrian	Regional/Local	Community Design
Goals/objectives	Statutory goals to increase walking and biking trips, increase safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance public health, and ensure disadvantaged communities share in the benefits of program	Increase and attract active transportation users and provide facilities for walking and biking in urban, suburban, and rural portions of the region	Support efforts of local agencies to construct infrastructure with walking and bicycling as primary transportation considerations	Implement the MTP/SCS by funding projects that provide regional benefits and maintain the regional transportation network	Implement the SACOG Blueprint Principles through the construction of improvements in the public right-of-way

2018 Proposed Funding Round					
Eligible Geographies	Statewide	Six-County Region	Four-County Region		
Funding Program	State Active Transportation	Regional Active Transportation	Merged Bicycle & Pedestrian and Regional/Local program		Community Design
Goals/objectives	Same as 2015	Same as 2015	Same as 2015, with minimum target for active transportation investments		Same as 2015

SACOG 2018 Flexible Funding Round Monthly Board Items and Key Activities

SACOG Board Items

Key Funding Round Activities

FEB

Local jurisdiction/project sponsor webinar

MAR

Calendar and Major Concepts

Technical assistance and project sponsor meetings

APR

Fund Estimate
Community Design Release Call

Technical assistance and project sponsor meetings

MAY

Merged Regional-Local Release Call

Application period

JUN

Community Design applications due

JUL

Merged Regional-Local applications due

AUG

Applications reviewed and scored

SEP

Working groups evaluation and recommendations

OCT

Comprehensive funding recommendation across programs

NOV

Draft Funding Recommendation

DEC

Funding Round Recommendation