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: The Transportation Committee unanimously recommends that the Board approve a resolution for projects to be submitted to Caltrans for discretionary funding and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute any funding agreements associated with these grants.

Committee Action/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 only received one pass-through request from the City of Elk Grove for a Strategic Partnership grant application.

In the weeks since the guidance was issued, staff has also been assessing potential SACOG-led projects for grant applications. Attachment B includes the initial list of potential SACOG applications that was provided to the Transportation Committee at its October 2 meeting which has been updated to reflect current discussions. A further update on grant applications that SACOG wishes to move forward will be provided to the Board at its October 16 meeting.

Attachment C contains the resolution authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to submit final 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 Sprowls, Senior Program Specialist, (916) 340-6235
Barbara VaughanBechtold, Associate Planner, (916) 340-6226
## Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Summary Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GRANT</strong></th>
<th><strong>FUND SOURCE</strong></th>
<th><strong>PURPOSE</strong></th>
<th><strong>WHO MAY APPLY</strong></th>
<th><strong>LOCAL MATCH</strong></th>
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</table>
| **Strategic Partnerships** | Federal Highway Administration—State Planning and Research, Part 1 **Budget** Federal funds $1,500,000 | Funds transportation planning studies of interregional and statewide significance, in partnership with Caltrans. | The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:  
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies  
- The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:  
- 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. |
| **Sustainable Communities** | Federal Transit Administration, Section 5304 & State Highway Account **Budget** Federal/State funds $8,300,000 | Funds studies of multimodal transportation issues having statewide, interregional, regional or local significance to assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and overarching objectives. | The following are eligible to apply as a primary applicant:  
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies  
- Transit Agencies; Cities and Counties; Native American Tribal Governments  
- The following are eligible to apply as a sub-applicant:  
- 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** | 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. |

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* 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).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Program</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Summary of Project Concept</th>
<th>Est. Grant Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>Household Travel Survey Design</td>
<td>This potential project would enable SACOG to work with the other large MPOs in the state to design a household travel survey that would fit the needs of both the other MPOs and the Sacramento region, including our more rural areas. The resulting survey design could help take advantage of economies of scale through collaborating with other MPOs on potential survey implementation in 2016. A current household travel survey would help SACOG update its travel model to support local jurisdictions’ transportation planning and SACOG modeling and analysis for the update of the MTP/SCS in 2020.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Communities</td>
<td>Connect Card Marketing Phase II: Reaching Harder-to-Reach Markets</td>
<td>This potential project could plan for development of additional multilingual instructional and marketing materials and outreach strategies to reach harder-to-reach audiences after the first rollout of the Connect Card; and for extension of the Connect Card sales network to more local, independent retailers, particularly those serving ethnic and low-income populations in areas served by transit agencies in the Connect Card Consortium. The concept is being discussed with the Connect Card Consortium.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Communities</td>
<td>Safe, Connected Routes to Transit</td>
<td>This concept is a potential partnership with transit agencies and local nonprofits to pilot a methodology to identify where and what type of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, safety, and amenity improvements could best support multimodal connections to key transit stops/stations and enhance transit ridership, with findings shared with local government planners to help inform local capital/infrastructure planning. This concept is still under discussion.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Communities</td>
<td>SACOG Internship</td>
<td>SACOG is verifying whether under the new Caltrans program rules SACOG can still apply for internship support and continue its very successful transit planning internship program to help with rural transit/transportation planning efforts.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</table>

**Pass-Through Request**

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<tr>
<th>Grant Program</th>
<th>Subrecipient/Project Title</th>
<th>Project Summary</th>
<th>Est. Grant Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Partnerships</td>
<td>City of Elk Grove</td>
<td>This project is a feasibility study to assess alternative locations for a multimodal transit station in Elk Grove with connections to Amtrak, etran, and RT services. The study would help quantify potential reductions to commuter traffic traveling in and out of the Sacramento region via the State Route 99 corridor, and help inform and support future city planning and funding efforts for a multimodal station.</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
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SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 51 – 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 16th day of October 2014, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

______________________________   ________________________________
Steve Cohn                      Mike McKeever
Chair                           Chief Executive Officer