



Approve 2025 Regional Active Transportation Program Funding Recommendation

Action

Author: Summer Lopez

Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Transportation

Issue:

Staff prepared a recommendation for \$4,721,000 in bicycle and pedestrian projects for the six-county Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP).

Request:

Approve

Recommendation for Board:

The Transportation Committee recommended that the SACOG board approve by resolution the six-county 2025 Regional Active Transportation Program recommendations and contingency list, authorize the Executive Director to develop the (ATP) transmittal documentation to submit to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), and direct staff to prepare the required Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) amendments.

Recommendation for Committee:

That the Transportation Committee recommend the SACOG board approve by resolution the six-county 2025 Regional Active Transportation Program recommendations and contingency list, authorize the Executive Director to develop the (ATP) transmittal documentation to submit to the California Transportation Commission (CTC), and direct staff to prepare the required Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) amendments.

Background:

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was created by Senate Bill 99 in 2013 to fund projects and programs that will increase biking and walking throughout California. The ATP is a highly competitive program jointly managed by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Metropolitan planning organizations like SACOG distribute a portion of these funds through a competitive process, with all final regional recommendations subject to approval from the CTC. SACOG works with El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) and Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) to develop and implement the Regional ATP. SACOG must submit a final funding recommendation to the CTC in April to be adopted by the June 2025, CTC meeting.

The 2025 ATP funds are available across four years: state fiscal years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029. In 2024, after SACOG's Regional ATP Policy Framework was already adopted by the SACOG board and the CTC, staff were notified that the State ATP budget was being reduced by \$400 million. This reduced the total Statewide amount from \$568.7 million to \$168.7 million. This impacted SACOG's regional budget, reducing the amount from \$15.9 million to \$4.7 million. Staff amended the Regional ATP Policy Framework to create guidelines to address the reduced funding amount. The revised Policy Framework (Attachment E) was adopted at the September 2024, SACOG board meeting and the October 2024, CTC meeting.

Project sponsors throughout the state submitted 277 project applications requesting \$2.5 billion of ATP funds. This included 24 competing projects from El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties requesting over \$205.4 million. At their December 5, 2024, meeting, the CTC adopted a funding recommendation identifying 13 projects to receive \$101.2 million of competitive statewide ATP funding. Although many projects within the SACOG region scored well, none were funded in the state program.

Discussion/Analysis:

Approximately \$4.721 million was available for the Regional ATP, and SACOG received 12 applications requesting \$16.064 million of ATP funds. Available Regional ATP funding only covers 29 percent of the requested amount. The trend of the program being highly competitive for applicants continues to grow. Attachment A provides the summary of the draft Regional ATP funding recommendation and a contingency list in the event any of the recommended projects are unable to use ATP funds or fail to deliver, or if the state revises the budget to backfill the lost ATP budget. Per the State ATP Guidelines, the contingency list would be in effect until the adoption of the next ATP programming cycle, anticipated in Winter 2027. Inclusion on the contingency list is not a guarantee of future funding through this or other SACOG-managed funding programs. Attachment B is the resolution for the California Transportation Commission to receive SACOG's Regional ATP recommendation. Attachment C provides project descriptions and a summary of the project strengths discussed by the working group for each project submitted to the 2025 Regional ATP.

A multidisciplinary working group of ten members ("Working Group", Attachment D) reviewed the regionally competing ATP projects to develop a funding recommendation for the region's ATP funds. The Working Group process was conducted in accordance with the Regional ATP Policy Framework (Attachment E), and is described in Attachment F. The Working Group discussed all competing projects and identified each project's strengths and potential to address the board-approved scoring criteria. They evaluated projects using Regional ATP application materials, data metrics from the SACOG project performance assessment data tool, and an electronic question/answer exchange with project sponsors to address questions that came up during working group discussion.

The State ATP Guidelines require that at least 25 percent of the funds benefit disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the Regional ATP Policy Framework identifies a regional goal of 40 percent of the available funds support projects that provide a meaningful benefit to disadvantaged community residents. 100 percent of the draft funding recommendation funds projects that provide a significant benefit to disadvantaged communities.

This item was presented at the Transportation Committee on March 6, 2025, and was recommended for Board approval with a unanimous vote. Public comments were made on this item in support of the Yolo County SR 128/I 505 Interchange/Russell Blvd. project recommendation as well as the Sacramento County Whitney Avenue project recommendation. Respective directors spoke to the importance of the projects being recommended for funding within their communities. A few other directors noted the continued importance of

the program and technical assistance from SACOG on active transportation projects.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Included in the Overall Work Program/Budget

List of Attachments:

Attachment A: Regional ATP Funding Recommendations and Contingency List

Attachment B: Resolution Approving Regional ATP Recommendations

Attachment C: 2023 Regional Active Transportation Program Project Scopes and Strengths

Attachment D: Working Group Roster Attachment

Attachment E: 2023 Regional Active Transportation Program Policy Framework

Attachment F: Regional ATP Evaluation Process

Attachment G: Powerpoint Presentation