

SACOG FTA 5307/5339 Discretionary Project Evaluation Criteria

The Discretionary Program emphasizes providing funding for needed transit improvements not readily funded from regular funding sources, and on the implementation of strategies in the Next Generation Transit program and projects that support those strategies. These strategies are primarily aimed at assisting public transit agencies to successfully integrate traditional fixed-route transit services with new services that expand travel options in more areas across the region, and could assist CTSAs, human service and non-profit transportation providers to maintain, expand, and improve the way they provide services. There are three unique strategy categories in the Next Generation Transit program (**Transit Design & Delivery, Planning & Funding**, and **Seamless User Experience**) as well as one cross-cutting category, **Reducing Mobility Disparities**.

The SACOG FTA 5307/5339 Discretionary Project Evaluation committee will be made up of staff representing SACOG, non-applicant agencies from the region, and if possible, a reviewer from outside the region.

A: MTP/SCS Implementation (50 points)

- Describe how this project(s) is consistent with your most recent agency/organization short-range transit plan (SRTP), as applicable, and/or relevant fleet plans, asset management plan or other agency/organization planning documents, such as a capital improvement program.
- Describe how this project(s) contributes towards or supports the implementation of the Next Generation Transit program. The program is consistent with SACOG MTP/SCS transit-related policies and also complementary to local agency transit agency plans. Strategies are identified in **Potential Investments tied to Next Generation Transit Program Strategies**.
- Describe how this project(s) supports “state of good repair”, “fix it first” policies, and long-term asset management benefits under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. For capital vehicle/component projects the applicant must show how capital items are a priority for replacement in their current fiscal year or most recent TAM, or part of the short (1-2 years), medium (2-3 years), or longer-term (4-5 years) asset planning portion of their TAM. Most recent TAM Planning information is only required of those agencies that must complete and submit a TAM.

Scoring

High (36-50 points): A high scoring project would demonstrate the following characteristics, if applicable:

- The project(s) strongly supports multiple SACOG Next Generation Transit program policies and strategies, such as those related to maintaining and restoring transit and human service/non-profit transportation services that responds to the growth projected in the MTP/SCS economic and land use forecasts. Scoring will also consider the proposed project investment relative to other submitted applications for similar projects.
- The project(s) allows transit/transportation provider to maintain a “state of good repair”, and focuses on “fix it first”, and is consistent with the agencies’ most recent short term asset management plan and/or TAM Plan (including transit vehicles, stations/stops and facilities).
- Is fully consistent with your most recent agency/organization SRTP (if applicable), fleet/facilities plan, asset management plan or other agency/organization planning documents, with the project(s) listed in the document or are supportive of specific recommendation(s).

Medium (18-35 points): A medium scoring project would demonstrate the following characteristics, if applicable:

- The project(s) moderately supports the SACOG Next Generation Transit program policies and strategies, such as those related to maintaining, restoring or extending transit and human service/non-profit transportation services and support for the growth projected in the MTP/SCS economic and land use forecasts. Scoring will also consider the proposed project investment relative to other submitted applications for similar projects.
- The project(s) allows transit/transportation provider to maintain partial “state of good repair”, and with some focus on “fix it first,” and is partially consistent with your most recent agency/organization medium-term asset management plan and/or TAM Plan (including transit vehicles, stations/stops and facilities) management plan.
- Has a moderate level of consistency with your most recent agency/organization SRTP (if applicable), fleet/facilities plan, asset management plan or other agency/organization planning documents, with a portion of the project(s) listed in the document and are partially supportive of specific recommendation(s).

Low (0-17 points): A low scoring project would demonstrate the following characteristics, if applicable:

- The project(s) does not directly support the SACOG Next Generation Transit program policies and strategies.
- The project(s) does not clearly allow the transit/transportation provider to maintain a “state of good repair”, nor focus on “fix it first”, and is not consistent with your most recent agency/organization long-term asset management plan and/or TAM Plan (including transit vehicles, stations/stops and facilities).
- Has limited consistency with your most recent agency/organization SRTP (if applicable), fleet/facilities plan, asset management plan or other

agency/organization planning documents, with the project(s) not listed in the document and are not supportive of a specific recommendation.

B: Reducing Mobility Disparities (30 points)

- Describe the specific operational/implementation or capital plan details for this project(s).
- Describe how this project(s) increases travel choice and reduces travel time and cost burden for disadvantaged community* travelers.
- Specify how your project(s) addresses the gap(s) and/or barrier(s) identified through:
 - Your agency's/organization's policies and plans related to equity or disadvantaged communities;
 - The most recent Unmet Transit Needs process (<https://sacog.primegov.com/portal/item/2571>);
 - The most recent Placer County Unmet Transit Needs process (https://pctpa.specialdistrict.org/files/da427e062/PCTPA+FINAL+FY+23-24+UTN+Report+and+Findings_02-22-23.pdf)
 - El Dorado County currently uses all TDA funds for transit purposes and does not hold an Unmet Transit Needs process;
 - The SACOG Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan - <https://www.sacog.org/meetings-agendas/advisory-groups/transit-coordinating-committee/transportation-coordinated-plan>
- Describe how this project(s) ensures access to “lifeline” and/or regional destinations (job centers, medical facilities, job training, educational facilities, regional shopping centers, regional transportation hubs, etc.).
- Describe how this project(s) ensures access to transportation for transit reliant populations, particularly those groups identified in the President’s Order for Environmental Justice, areas experiencing high levels of unemployment or chronic underemployment, or low-income high minority areas as defined in the most recent SACOG MTP/SCS.

*SACOG is defining “disadvantaged communities” as: including but not limited to those communities that have high proportions of their population made up of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), low-income households, households headed by seniors and/or people with disabilities. This definition is based on the SACOG MTP/SCS and maybe more expansive than other state funding program definitions.

Scoring

High (20-30 points): A high scoring project would demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Provides a clear and detailed operational/implementation plan for this project(s);
- Improves access to a large number of “lifeline” and regional destinations;
- Serves multiple disadvantage community* user groups, including those without full-time access to cars, those identified in the President’s Order for Environmental

Justice, those identified in the SACOG MTP/SCS, and/or areas experiencing high levels of unemployment or chronic underemployment;

- Adjacent to dense residential and/or job, training or educational centers, or mixed-use areas that are likely to generate significant use of the project(s).

Medium (10-19 points): A medium scoring project would demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Provides a partial and somewhat detailed operational/implementation plan for this project(s);
- Improves access to some “lifeline” and regional destinations;
- Serves some disadvantaged community* user groups, including those without full-time access to cars, and some of those identified in the President’s Order for Environmental Justice, those identified in the SACOG MTP/SCS, and/or portions of areas experiencing high levels of unemployment or chronic underemployment;
- Adjacent to residential and/or job, training or educational centers, or areas that are likely to generate use of the project(s).

Low (0-9 points): A low scoring project would demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Provides little or no operational/implementation plan for this project(s);
- Provides little or no access to “lifeline” and regional destinations;
- Serves few disadvantaged community* users, including those without full-time access to cars, those identified in the President’s Order for Environmental Justice, nor areas experiencing high levels of unemployment or chronic underemployment;
- Adjacent areas are low density/controlled access residential and/or job, training or educational centers, which will not generate much, if any, use of the project(s).

C: Project Readiness/Financial Plan* (15 Points)

- Describe how this project(s) has long-term financial sustainability.
- Describe how this project(s) provides transportation services cost efficiently.
- When does the sponsor plan to obligate the requested regional funding at part of an FTA grant award?
- What are the amounts and sources of secured funding for the project?
- What are the amounts and sources of reasonably expected and unsecured funding for the project?
- How does this project leverage other funds that are or may become available to support the project?
- Will the funds complete the project or a phase of the project?

Note: Project sponsors will be responsible for the information provided in the application.

*Project sponsors must supply a full financial budget and detailed project schedule in the application.

Scoring

High (8-15 points): A project will receive a high score if:

- Project(s) transportation services, maintenance, operations and fleet replacements needs are financially sustainable in the long-term using existing funding sources.
- Project(s) transportation services are provided in the most cost efficient and effective manors possible.
- All other needed funding is fully secured for the phase requested to receive FTA competitive funds, and
- The requested funding will be sufficient to complete the project or phase of the project.
- The project leverages other funds available or that may become available for the project.

Low (0-7 points): A project will receive a low score if:

- Project(s) transportation services, maintenance, operations and fleet replacements needs are not financially sustainable in the long-term using existing funding sources.
- Project(s) transportation services are not provided in the most cost efficient and effective manors possible.
- There is reason to doubt that all other needed funding will be fully secured for the phase requested by the estimated obligation date, and
- The requested funding will not be sufficient to complete a phase of the project.
- The project does not leverage funds available or that may become available for the project.

D. Other Consideration (5 points)

The project applicant must demonstrate financial need to implement the proposed project during the two-year period covered by this call for projects. Also, the project applicant should have a track record with delivering FTA grants in a timely manner including technical capacity and reliability for similar projects.

Scoring

High (4-5 points): A project will receive a high score if:

- The project's applicant demonstrates financial need.
- The project's applicant demonstrates a track record with delivering FTA grants in a timely manner.

Low (0-3 points): A project will receive a low score if:

- The project's applicant does not demonstrate financial need.

- The project's applicant does not demonstrate a track record with delivering FTA grants in a timely manner.
- The project's applicant does not have the technical capacity or reliability to deliver a successful project.