

Regional Active Transportation Program Evaluation Process

Call for Projects

The SACOG Regional Active Transportation Program (Regional ATP) concluded the call for projects on December 3, 2020. Cities and counties submitted 25 projects to compete in the six-county 2021 Regional Active Transportation Program. Of the submitted projects, 21 were carried over from the 2021 State ATP; seven projects were competing with reduced scopes and funding requests in acknowledgement of the more limited regional funds.

Screening

The Regional ATP Team—staff from El Dorado County Transportation Commission, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, and SACOG—screened the 25 submitted Regional ATP projects for eligibility to compete. All submitted projects were deemed eligible to compete either as submitted or with minor clarifications from the project sponsors. Following the screening, applications were shared with the Active Transportation Working Group (Working Group) in early January for review.

Evaluation

Each project was scored by seven members of the Working Group; Working Group members did not score projects for which they had a conflict of interest. Scores included the performance metrics of increasing biking and walking (45 points), increasing safety (20 points), project performance (20 points), reducing greenhouse gas emissions (10 points), supporting economic prosperity (10 points), and project readiness (5 points); working group members provided a score for the potential benefit to disadvantaged community member (10 points), but this metric was not included in the total score. The 10 points for disadvantaged community benefit was used to determine which projects should be counted towards the region's state-mandated minimum 25% investment in disadvantaged communities, and the region's goal of 35% investment in projects with a meaningful benefit for disadvantaged community residents.

The State ATP funding recommendation was released in early February; the four SACOG region projects recommended for State ATP funding were then removed from the Regional ATP competition. The Working Group met virtually four times in February to discuss projects and submit any clarifying questions to the project sponsors. Working Group members did not discuss any projects for which they had a conflict of interest, such as if they work for the project sponsor. Staff emailed these questions to project sponsors, project sponsors emailed answers, and staff shared the responses with the Working Group. After reviewing these responses, each member of the Working Group submitted their evaluation for competing projects. Staff removed the highest and lowest scores then averaged the remaining five scores to develop each project's average score. The average scores—rounded to whole numbers—were used to develop an initial list of Regional ATP Scores for discussion at the final Working Group meeting.

Ranking

The Working Group discussed the nine top-scoring projects to revisit strengths, weaknesses, and how project sponsors had answered the Working Group's questions. After the discussion, Working Group members had the option to re-score any of the discussed projects. Staff inputted revised scores,

removed the outlying high and low scores, then averaged the remaining scores to develop the revised averages. The Working Group used the revised average scores to identify a ranked funding recommendation for the Regional ATP. However, the ranked funding recommendation exceeded \$11,773,000, with two projects tied at 80 points. The Working Group tasked the Regional ATP Team with the responsibility of ensuring the final recommendation met financial constraints.

Working Group Ranked Recommendation

1. West Sacramento - I Street Bridge Deck Conversion for Active Transportation Project (score 86)
2. Placerville - Placerville Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (score 85)
3. Sacramento - American River Bridge Shared-Use Path (score 85)
4. Yuba County - Garden Avenue Safe Route to School Project (score 82)
5. Elk Grove - Laguna Creek Inter-Regional Trail Crossing at State Route 99 (score 81)
6. West Sacramento - Sycamore Trail (Phase 3) (score 80)
7. Citrus Heights - Old Auburn Road Complete Streets - Phase I (score 80)
8. Woodland - Matmor Road and E. Gum Avenue Complete Streets Project (score 79)
9. Yolo County - Yolo-80 Corridor Improvement Project - Bikeway Connectivity (score 78)

Recommendation

In refining the financially-constrained funding recommendation, two projects were removed from the Regional ATP—the City of West Sacramento’s “I Street Bridge Deck Conversion for Active Transportation Project” and the City of Woodland’s “Matmor Road and E. Gum Avenue Complete Streets Project”. Both projects are recommended for funding through the four-county 2021 SACOG Funding Program. With those projects removed from the Regional ATP competition, both projects scoring an average of 80 points are included in a financially constrained funding recommendation.

Final Regional ATP Funding Recommendation

1. Placerville - Placerville Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (score 85)
2. Sacramento - American River Bridge Shared-Use Path (score 85)
3. Yuba County - Garden Avenue Safe Route to School Project (score 82)
4. Elk Grove - Laguna Creek Inter-Regional Trail Crossing at State Route 99 (score 81)
5. West Sacramento - Sycamore Trail (Phase 3) (score 80)
6. Citrus Heights - Old Auburn Road Complete Streets - Phase I (score 80)
7. Yolo County - Yolo-80 Corridor Improvement Project - Bikeway Connectivity – partial funding recommendation/remaining available funding (score 78)

The remaining Regional ATP projects form a ranked contingency list. Tied projects were ranked based on first their score under the metric of “improving safety”, then on the metric of “increasing biking and walking”.

Ranked Contingency List

1. Yolo County – Yolo-80 Corridor Improvement Project – Bikeway Connectivity – remaining funding need (score 78)
2. Winters, City of - SR128/I-505 Overcrossing (Br. 22-0110)/Russell Blvd Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (score 77)

3. Yuba County - Ninth Avenue & Fleming Way Safe Route to School Project (score 77)
4. Rancho Cordova - Safe Routes to School Safety Enhancement Project (score 77)
5. Roseville - Dry Creek Greenway East Trail, Phase 2 (score 76)
6. El Dorado County - El Dorado Trail / Missouri Flat Road Pedestrian Overcrossing (score 76)
7. El Dorado County - Ponderosa Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (score 76)
8. Folsom - Riley Street Sidewalks Project (score 75)
9. Rancho Cordova - Olson Drive Corridor Safety Enhancement Project (score 75)
10. Sacramento County - Folsom Boulevard Complete Street Improvements, Phase 2 (score 73)
11. Sacramento County Regional Parks - Dry Creek Trail, Phase 2 (score 69)
12. Marysville, City of - City of Marysville -14th Street Corridor ATP Improvements (score 67)
13. Sacramento Regional Transit District - SacRT Light Rail Modernization Station Improvements for Active Transportation Enhancement (score 60)

Project Sponsor coordination

Following the release of the draft Regional ATP recommendation, SACOG staff reached out to Yolo County staff to determine if they were able to use the recommended partial funding award. The California Transportation Commission does not allow SACOG to recommend partial funding awards that would not yield a completed project phase. From staff's review of the application materials for "Yolo-80 Corridor Improvement Project – Bikeway Connectivity", there was not a clear and complete project phase that could be completed with the recommended partial award. Yolo County staff determined they would not be able to apply the partial funding recommendation to complete a meaningful project or project phase at this time and declined the partial award.

The remaining funding was offered to and accepted by the project sponsor for the next project on the ranked contingency list, "SR128/I-505 Overcrossing (Br. 22-0110)/Russell Blvd Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements". The revised funding recommendation and contingency list in Attachment A reflects this change. Staff will work with the City of Winters to ensure this recommendation would meet programming requirements from the CTC. The "SR128/I-505 Overcrossing (Br. 22-0110)/Russell Blvd Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements" would also increase the amount of regional funding providing a meaningful benefit to disadvantaged communities.