



Regional Funding Round Working Group

Information

**Prepared by:** Kristina Svensk

**Attachments:** No

**Approved by:** James Corless

**Referring Committee:** Transportation

**1. Issue:**

As a complement to the next Funding Round cycle, and at board direction, SACOG will convene a working group to participate in the development of the programs. SACOG staff is working to develop a plan for this working group, and is soliciting input from the board on the current proposal.

**2. Recommendation:**

None, this item is for information only.

**3. Background/Analysis:**

SACOG is currently in the midst of the 2022 Funding Round, which is using the framework developed as part of the previous round, an extensive effort that involved SACOG staff, partner jurisdictions and the SACOG board. As conditions in the transportation funding and regulatory environment have since changed, as well as a need to ensure initiatives within SACOG remain consistent with the Blueprint, there is a heightened need to take a fresh look at how we approach the next funding round process, which is scheduled to take place in 2024.

**4. Discussion/Analysis:**

The need for a SACOG working group, comprised of board members across each of the 6 counties, will serve as a critical component of our ability to develop a funding round that ensures programs and projects in the region are advanced in the most effective way possible. With board adoption of the Triple Bottom Line framework and goals that guide the Blueprint, it remains a priority to understand how we can invest our transportation funding in a way that supports these established goals. As SACOG's regional funding round is a major financial mechanism for projects included in the MTP (now Blueprint), these efforts must be aligned. Moreover, additional funding programs resulting from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL, previously known as IIJA) provide a path for more focused funding opportunities in the region.

For the working group, the goal is to obtain a strong understanding of what goes into the funding round, as well as provide direction on the development of funding round programs, framework and evaluation criteria. For SACOG staff, the goal is to gain a better understanding of the issues and concerns that partner agencies have expressed, and ensure these are considered throughout the creation of the funding round framework. Collectively, the end goal is to encourage board involvement and buy-in during the process.

The initial proposal for the working group is to meet with SACOG staff regularly over the course of roughly 1.5 years, beginning in January 2023. SACOG staff plans to also convene a separate group of staff, including public works directors, planning directors and others from partner agencies from the six-county region, to be able to provide a forum for discussion regarding their experiences and needs for our funding round. Staff proposes that the staff group designate or appoint a representative to participate in the board working group, to allow for cross-collaboration. We anticipate that this group will meet in parallel with the board working group, beginning in early 2023. Additionally, to ensure a well-rounded forum, we also propose that the Transit Coordinating Committee (TCC) appoint an additional representative for the working group.

It is envisioned that the beginning of the working group will focus on key background information that serves as the foundation for how the funding round will be developed. As the working group progresses, structured discussions will be held that will shape the actual program focus areas and related frameworks. A list of proposed topics includes:

- FHWA Corrective Action regarding how SACOG as the federal MPO works with state Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (i.e., EDCTC, PCTPA, and SACOG for the four-county area) regarding the selection of projects with federal funds
- Funding programs and “color of money” foundations
- Current funding round evaluation and award process
- Discussion of observations from recent funding round and areas to address
- Relationship of Blueprint and Triple Bottom Line with future funding round
- Development of program, framework and criteria

Meeting frequency for the working group has not been solidified, but staff suggests that the group meet every two months, ideally directly after board meetings to minimize the potential for scheduling conflicts and strains on time commitments. Staff proposes that the first working group meeting occur in February. A generalized, potential schedule is shown below:

- **January 2023:** Through a dedicated item at the board meeting, discuss the intent of the working group over the next 1.5 years and provide a structure for the meetings.
- **February 2023:** Kickoff working group meeting. Develop a workscope, leveraging the insight of the board and provide critical feedback that they have received on what is or is not working with the current and previous funding rounds.
- **Spring through Fall 2023:** Focused discussions on funding sources and applicability, current funding round evaluation and award process, observations from current funding round and areas to address.
- **Fall 2023 through Spring 2024:** Focus on program, framework, and criteria development, including goals and strategies to support the Blueprint and Triple Bottom Line.

Feedback received from the board will be incorporated into a more formalized plan, which will be distributed to participating board members in preparation for a January 2023 board item. Staff will also work to solicit interest for the public works working group, consult with the TCC, and develop a plan with the intent of beginning meetings in early 2023.

##### **5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:**

**Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity**

**Objective 1:** Invest in and protect the transportation infrastructure needed to implement the region's economic prosperity plan.

**Objective 2:** Establish the Sacramento region as a testbed and scale-up location for innovative mobility solutions.

**Objective 3:** Improve people's ability to get to jobs, schools, and other economic opportunities.

**Objective 5:** Begin sustained effort to address the racial inequities related to economic prosperity indicators associated with housing, transportation, and opportunity.

**Goal 2 : Connected Communities**

**Objective 1:** Develop more sustainable sources of future transportation funding while winning new competitive state and federal transportation grants.

**Objective 2:** Support innovative mobility options that develop equitable, accessible transportation options for all residents.

**Objective 3:** Prioritize cost-effective transportation investments that enhance mobility while improving safety, air quality, and the condition of transportation infrastructure and assets.