



2023 Regional Active Transportation Program Funding Recommendation

Action

Prepared by: Dustin Foster

Attachments: Yes

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

Staff prepared a recommendation for \$45,512,000 in pedestrian and bicycle projects for the six-county Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP).

2. Recommendation:

The Transportation Committee recommends that the SACOG board approve by resolution the six-county 2023 Regional ATP 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.

3. Background/Analysis:

The ATP was created by Senate Bill 99 in 2013 to fund projects and programs that will increase biking and walking. 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 May to be adopted by the June CTC meeting.

The 2023 ATP funds are available across four years: state fiscal years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027. The ATP uses a sequential selection process where projects compete first statewide, then in smaller regional competitions like the SACOG Regional ATP. The sequential selection process is important because it allows local agencies to bring more funding into our region to implement needed active transportation projects and offers streamlining opportunities for funding programs with similar emphases. Project sponsors throughout the state submitted 463 project applications requesting \$3.12 billion of Active Transportation Program funds. This included 26 competing projects from El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties requesting over \$252.8 million.

At their December 7, meeting, the CTC adopted a funding recommendation identifying 93 projects to receive \$1,024,224,000 of competitive statewide ATP funding. Eight Sacramento region projects received \$83,684,000 in support of active transportation infrastructure improvements.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

The projects funded by the statewide ATP were removed from consideration in the Regional ATP. Further, one project withdrew due to statewide ATP ineligibility. Therefore, 25 applications requesting \$ \$110,934,500 of active transportation projects and programs competed for Regional ATP funds totaling \$45,512,000. Available Regional ATP funding only covers 41 percent of the requested amount, which is higher than the 2021 program, but continues the trend of the program being highly competitive for applicants.

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. Per the State ATP Guidelines, the contingency list would be in effect until the adoption of the next ATP programming cycle, anticipated in winter 2025. 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 2023 Regional ATP.

A multidisciplinary working group of seven members and two alternates ("Working Group", Attachment D) reviewed all regionally competing ATP projects to develop a funding recommendation for the region's \$45,512,000 of ATP funds. The Working Group process was conducted in accordance with the Regional ATP Policy Framework (Attachment E) approved by the SACOG board last April, 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. To provide further context on the regional data from the project performance assessment tool, projects were grouped by community type.

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 40-60 percent of the available funds support projects that provide a meaningful benefit to disadvantaged community residents. The draft funding recommendation identifies \$19,900,000 to fund projects that provide a significant benefit to disadvantaged communities, or 44 percent of the available funding.

Staff presented this recommendation to the Transportation Committee on March 2, 2023, and the Committee recommended approval by the board.

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 E: 2023 Regional Active Transportation Program Policy Framework

Attachment F: Regional ATP Evaluation Process

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no fiscal impact to the agency's operating budget, other than already budgeted staff time.