



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: August 1, 2019

Agenda Item No. 5

Approve 2019 Four-County SACOG Funding Round Programming Recommendations

Action

Prepared by: Garrett Ballard-Rosa

Approved by: Matt Carpenter

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

A staff recommendation for project funding awards is being provided for the 2019 SACOG four-county regional funding round.

2. Recommendation:

That the Transportation Committee recommend the SACOG board approve the four-county 2019 SACOG Funding Round programming recommendations, which consist of project scopes, funding amounts, and conditions. Board approval of the funding round recommendation will authorize the executive director to negotiate and execute any necessary Memoranda of Understanding with project sponsors, and direct staff to prepare the required Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program amendments.

3. Background/Analysis:

Over the last 15 years, SACOG has conducted competitive regional funding rounds to award transportation projects within the four-county region (Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties) that implement the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). The focus and selection process evolve over each round in response to board direction and input from stakeholders across the region.

The regional funding round is typically held every two years in order to pool enough revenues to make available at least \$100 million in funding, and because of the significant level of effort for all involved parties. In 2018 however, the board acted to conduct a funding round in 2018 followed by a smaller funding round in 2019. The board acted to hold back some funding until a 2019 funding round because of the risks to the state sources of funding at that time (namely the Senate Bill 1 repeal risk) and the desire to continue to align the regional funding round with the update of the MTP/SCS.

In December 2018, the board unanimously acted on the 2018 funding round staff recommendation to award over \$138 million to road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects and programs. The one-time 'off cycle' 2019 funding round will award the remaining funds from the 2018/2019 cycle before the agency returns to the normal two-year funding cycle through the larger upcoming 2020 funding round.

Four-county regional funding round awards are made possible by flexible federal and state revenues managed by SACOG. These revenue sources include Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Regional Surface Transportation Program Block Grants (STPBG), the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and

SACOG managed funds. Transportation projects in Placer and El Dorado counties have separate funding programs through Placer County Transportation Planning Agency and El Dorado County Transportation Commission, respectively.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

In April, the board approved the policy framework of the 2019 funding round. The action established a funding target of \$55 million with the option of an additional 10% contingency to provide a potential \$60 million in total awards. At that same time, the board authorized staff to develop guidelines and release a call for projects across three program categories: (1) 2018 Partial Projects; (2) State of Good Repair; and (3) Planning/Project Development. As part of that policy action the board also endorsed staff’s recommendation to streamline application materials and accelerate the 2019 funding round timeline.

Application Review

SACOG received 27 eligible applications in the 2019 funding round that collectively requested nearly \$127 million in funding. Following the guidelines established by the round’s policy framework, staff conducted a multi-faceted review to evaluate all submitted applications for performance and project delivery benefits. First, staff convened a working group consisting of a mix of SACOG and outside experts. The working group consisted of a diverse set of nine planners and engineers, including five members with executive transportation management experience.

Following an orientation meeting, each member of the working group independently reviewed and evaluated applications on the basis of their performance merit within the program’s selection criteria. The working group then met to discuss and evaluate submitted projects in a review that considered the various inputs of the performance evaluation, including both qualitative and quantitative indicators. SACOG management staff compiled the working group findings into a final recommendation package across the three program categories within funding availability.

Staff Recommendation

The recommended \$60 million in awards includes \$56.19 million in awards for the three competitive program categories, and \$3.85 million to meet the smaller funding commitments established in the board’s April policy action. The table below reports staff’s 2019 funding recommendation.

2019 Funding Round Recommendation Summary

Program	Recommended Award
2018 Partial Projects	\$42.27 million
State of Good Repair Projects	\$12.78 million
Planning & Project Development Projects	\$1.15 million
SUB-TOTAL for COMPETITIVE AWARDS	\$56.19 million
TDM Program, including innovative mobility and grant programs	\$3 million
3 rd year of Spare the Air TCM and SACOG Planning & Monitoring	\$0.85 million
2019 FUNDING ROUND TOTAL	\$60 million

Attachment A provides the tabular summary of the staff recommendations for the competitive funding. **Attachment B** provides the total funding recommendation across the combined 2018 + 2019 SACOG cycle for

projects competing for funding in the 2019 round through the '2018 Partial Projects' program category. **Attachment C** provides more detailed project descriptions and a summary of the staff and working group analysis for each project in the three competitive programs. The attachment also lists any conditions staff recommends as part of the award. If the board approves such an award, the project sponsor will meet with SACOG Project Delivery staff to establish an agreed-upon approach for meeting these project level agreements. Upon meeting these agreed-upon requirements, the project will be programmed into the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Should the project sponsor be unable to reach the conditions of the board action, the awarded funds will be made available to future SACOG funding programs. Finally, **Attachment D** contains the board-adopted policy framework for the 2019 funding round.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no fiscal impact to SACOG's operating budget other than already budgeted staff time. Flexible federal and state revenues, along with SACOG managed funds, provide the funding for the recommended awards.

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

7 - Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects