




September 6, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: 2019 Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program Call for Projects

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority provides federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds for bicycle projects that are selected through a competitive process. The Board of Directors is requested to approve the guidelines and release the 2019 Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program call for projects. There is approximately \$25 million available for programming in fiscal year 2019-20 through fiscal year 2023-24.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the guidelines for the 2019 Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program call for projects.
- B. Authorize staff to issue the 2019 Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program call for projects using up to \$25 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program funds.

Background

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funding is made available through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act signed into law on December 4, 2015.

The CMAQ Program provides a funding source for transportation projects that help meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. Under the FAST Act, CMAQ funding provided to the regions is calculated based on the state's apportionment, the regional population, and air quality factors. The Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) annual apportionment is approximately \$44.9 million.

The Capital Programming Guidelines, approved by the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) on May 8, 2017, approved the use of up to ten percent of CMAQ funds for active transportation projects, contingent on ready-to-go projects, as submitted through competitive call for projects (call).

To date, the Board has awarded \$35.8 million in funding through the Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program (BCIP) to 45 projects. With savings and cancellations, the total awarded program value is currently \$28.7 million to 38 projects. In addition, OCTA has supported local efforts to secure \$66.2 million in funding for active transportation projects in Orange County.

Discussion

Over the last few years, local agencies have completed active transportation plans and have developed active transportation projects in need of funding to further advance towards construction. Staff is proposing to make up to \$25 million in federal CMAQ funds available for the 2019 BCIP call to fund bicycle projects in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 through FY 2023-24.

Staff presented the draft guidelines (Attachment A) to the Technical Steering Committee on June 13, 2018, and the Technical Advisory Committee on June 27, 2018 for review. Both committees endorsed the guidelines with minor refinements. A list of changes from the 2016 BCIP call that were incorporated into the 2019 BCIP Guidelines is provided (Attachment B). The guidelines include the following key provisions:

- Eligible projects (projects that are beginning a phase of work in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019-20 through FFY 2023-24) include: bicycle facilities and bicycle trails
- Eligible applicants: 35 local agencies (cities and County of Orange)
- Eligible phases
 - Environmental and preliminary engineering (FFY 2019-20 only)
 - Implementation (final design, right-of-way, and construction)
 - Agencies can only apply for environmental and preliminary engineering or implementation for the same project
- Funding
 - \$25 million in CMAQ is available for the 2019 BCIP call
 - For environmental and preliminary engineering phases: \$100,000 minimum request, \$500,000 maximum request
 - For implementation phases: \$200,000 minimum request, \$4 million maximum request

- 12 percent non-federal local match
 - Funds are reimbursable following proof of expenditures
 - Projects with overmatch will receive additional points
- Project selection is based on the following criteria:
 - Master Plan of Arterial Highways consistency
 - State and federal compliance
 - Financial viability and technical capacity
 - Air quality benefits
 - Coordination demonstrated through planning documents
 - Need
 - Project readiness
 - Safety enhancements
 - Public participation, community outreach and support
- Provisions for use and timely use of funds
 - Specific deadlines for submittal of documents required for Federal Highways Administration approval for obligation of funds
 - Contract award within nine months of obligation of funds
 - Adherence to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Local Assistance procedures
 - Semi-annual project status reports

Next Steps

Staff is requesting authorization to issue the 2019 BCIP call. With Board approval, staff will notify the local agencies regarding the call.

Staff will convene an advisory panel to assist with the review and ranking of applications. The panel may include one representative from Caltrans, the OCTA's Citizens Advisory Committee, OCTA staff, and two representatives from OCTA's Technical Advisory Committee. The estimated timeline for the BCIP call is:

- September 24, 2018 – OCTA Board action considering the 2019 BCIP call
- September 27, 2018 – OCTA Workshop to review the procedures and answer questions about the 2019 BCIP call
- November 15, 2018 – applications due to OCTA
- November 2018 through January 2019 – OCTA staff and the BCIP advisory panel will review and rank the applications, and
- March 25, 2019 – Board consideration and approval of program of projects

Summary

OCTA is requesting Board approval to release the 2019 BCIP call, providing up to \$25 million in FY 2019-20 and FY 2023-24. Staff is seeking approval of the guidelines and authorization to issue a call to program these funds for bicycle projects.

Attachments

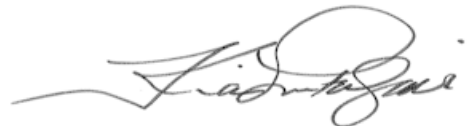
- A. Program Guidelines, 2019 Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program, Call for Projects, Orange County Transportation Authority Guidelines and Procedures
- B. 2019 Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program Guidelines Summary, Proposed Schedule

Requested by



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Approved by



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