




October 1, 2018

To: Regional Planning and Highways Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Active Transportation Program Local Project Prioritization Methodology

Overview

On May 16, 2018, the California Transportation Commission adopted the 2019 Active Transportation Program Guidelines and issued a two-tiered call for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The State of California and the Southern California Association of Governments will administer the process. A proposal for the Orange County Transportation Authority to prioritize projects selected through the Southern California Association of Governments selection process is presented for Board of Directors' approval.

Recommendation

Approve the Active Transportation Program local project prioritization methodology for the 2019 Active Transportation Program and future calls for projects.

Background

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was approved as part of SB 99 (Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) on September 26, 2013, and includes federal and state funds for bicycle and pedestrian call for projects (call) statewide. The 2019 ATP call will provide funding for projects in fiscal years 2019-20 through 2022-23.

On May 16, 2018, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted the 2019 ATP Guidelines (Guidelines) and issued a call. A fact sheet outlining the CTC Guidelines is provided in Attachment A.

The purpose of ATP is to encourage increased use of active (non-motorized) modes of transportation by achieving the following goals.

- Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking,
- Increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users,
- Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals,
- Enhance public health,
- Ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program, and
- Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

On July 31, 2018, Orange County agencies submitted applications to the state for the first tier of the call, with \$245 million in funding. A list of the Orange County project submittals is provided in Attachment B. Projects not selected in the first tier can be reconsidered for the second tier of the call through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) project selection process, with \$13.962 million for Orange County projects.

On August 15, 2018, the CTC approved SCAG's 2019 regional project selection process, which adheres to the state guidelines and accepts the state established scoring for each project, with a few minor deviations, per SB 99.

- SCAG regional funds will be distributed to each county based on population, and will be programmed to the highest scoring projects up to the funding provided in each county, and
- Each county transportation commission may assign up to an additional 20 points to infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects, consistent with adopted local and regional plans.
- Planning projects that are not funded through the statewide call will be considered separately through the SCAG sustainability planning grants supplemental call, which is a separate process.

Discussion

The CTC Guidelines require the statewide call and the SCAG 2019 ATP regional project selection process to occur sequentially. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will rank projects for the first tier of the call. The CTC is expected to approve and program funding for these projects in January 2019.

Projects in the SCAG region, which are not selected for the first tier are then considered for the second tier of funding through the SCAG regional project selection process. This process allows for local prioritization methodology developed by each of the county transportation commissions. By statute, the methodology must be based on adopted regional plans

On October 10, 2016, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) approved the 2017 ATP project prioritization methodology to distribute up to ten points to projects for the previous call. Consistent with SCAG's guidelines, OCTA's approved local project prioritization methodology is based upon the project's inclusion in regional and local plans that focus on bicycle and pedestrian gap closures and corridors, local community needs related to activities such as Safe Routes to Schools, active transportation and complete streets. Staff is proposing to use the same methodology with the following changes, as shown in Attachment C:

- Total points to be assigned is proposed to be increased from ten to 20, consistent with the SCAG Regional Guidelines;
- Inclusion of OC Active, currently under development, is added as an alternative to the Orange County Commuter Bikeways Strategic Plan. This plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2018; and
- "Project is included in a local agency bicycle or pedestrian master plan or active transportation plan" is expanded to, "Project is included in a state or local agency bicycle or pedestrian master plan, active transportation plan, or complete streets plan." This change allows for more projects to be eligible for the points.

OCTA staff will work with local agencies to identify eligible plans that include the proposed projects and assign points consistent with the approved methodology.

Next Steps

With Board approval, staff will apply the methodology to assign points to the 2019 ATP projects. In order to meet SCAG's December 31, 2018 deadline for county transportation commission point assignments, staff will return to the Board for approval before the end of the calendar year.

Summary

Caltrans received 36 ATP applications from Orange County agencies, including Caltrans District 12, requesting \$221.659 million in ATP funds. Any Orange County project applications that do not receive statewide funding will be considered for funding in the SCAG regional project selection metropolitan planning organizations call (\$13.962 million for Orange County), along with the additional points to be assigned by OCTA to each application. Staff is proposing a revised project prioritization methodology for approval.

Attachments

- A. 2019 Active Transportation Program Fact Sheet
- B. 2019 Active Transportation Program, Orange County Projects (in 000's)
- C. Existing and Proposed Orange County Transportation Authority Active Transportation Program Project Prioritization Methodology

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