

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: April 15, 2025

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395
Attention: Honorable Heather Hutt, Chair, Transportation Committee

From: Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager
Department of Transportation 

Subject: **AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE JOINT STBG/CMAQ SOLICITATION**

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Bureau of Engineering (BOE), and Bureau of Street Services (BSS) request authority to submit 21 grant applications to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) by May 16, 2025 to compete for the Joint Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Solicitation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. APPROVE the projects detailed in Attachment A, attached to the Council File, as the City's priority for pursuing this funding opportunity.
2. AUTHORIZE the General Manager, LADOT, or Director of the respective lead City Department, to submit grant applications to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on behalf of the City of Los Angeles for the recommended projects for funding through this grant.
3. AUTHORIZE the General Manager, LADOT, or Director of the respective lead City Department, to execute any necessary funding agreements and contractual documents, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, for accepting the grant funding.
4. DIRECT the General Manager or Director of the respective lead City Department to identify any additional resource needs, including staff, and/or overtime funding, for the implementation of the projects that are awarded funding through this grant opportunity, and to seek approval for any additional staffing from City Council prior to accepting the grant funds.
5. AUTHORIZE leveraging additional funds for City staff salaries and cash match through Prop C, Measure M, Toll Credits, and Vision Zero Funds.

BACKGROUND

The STBG program allocates federal funds to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of highways, bridges, public roads, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. The CMAQ program allocates federal funds to transportation projects that reduce congestion and improve air quality. Up until 2024, the distribution of this funding was through a population-based formula. In January 2024, the program shifted to a competitive grant program when SCAG released a joint funding solicitation for Round 1 (CF 24-1055).

On March 31, 2025, SCAG announced the Round 2 joint solicitation for project nominations under the STBG and CMAQ program. For the federal fiscal years 2026-27 and 2027-28, the STBG program will receive \$306 million and \$313 million, respectively, totaling \$619 million. Similarly, the CMAQ program will be allocated \$304.9 million for 2026-27 and \$311 million for 2027-28, amounting to \$615.9 million. The obligation deadlines for these funds are September 30, 2029, for the 2026-27 allocation, and September 30, 2030, for the 2027-28 allocation.

SCAG, as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), allocates these funds through a competitive project nomination process. County Transportation Commissions (CTC), including the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), assists in this process by providing initial project screening based on evaluation criteria. Metro collaborates with local jurisdictions to review and rank proposed projects. Once Metro finalizes its rankings, SCAG will assess all nominations, recommend funding amounts, and submit the final list for approval by the SCAG Regional Council. SCAG established performance-based funding nomination targets for each county. Los Angeles County's target for the CMAQ and STBG funds available in this call for projects is approximately \$660 million. This target serves as a guideline for nominations rather than a guaranteed funding amount.

Applications must be submitted to Metro by May 16, 2025. Metro will prioritize and submit the final list of projects to SCAG by August 1, 2025. SCAG will announce the awards by December 2025.

DISCUSSION**Guideline Changes**

Several guideline changes have been introduced this year to improve the application process and project evaluation. Regional priority project categories now align with SCAG regional priorities, based on SCAG's Connect SoCal 2024 plan, including a focus on the resilience of at-risk infrastructure. The scoring system has been updated, replacing equity scoring with Community Economic Development Benefits, which prioritizes projects that benefit communities designated as Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities. Additionally, the revised scoring criteria place greater emphasis on reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions, by awarding additional points for projects that reduce PM2.5 emissions in nonattainment areas. Finally, project applications will be submitted through an application module this year to streamline the process.

City staff are also closely monitoring changes to funding policies and requirements at the federal level. Should this program be impacted by future changes, staff will report back on those changes and resulting impacts.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for CMAQ and STBG funding include cities, counties, transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and CTCs within the SCAG region. To qualify for funding, projects must meet the eligibility criteria for either the STBG or CMAQ programs. The STBG program supports projects that preserve and improve the condition and performance of surface transportation infrastructure, such as highways, bridges, public roads, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and transit capital projects. Meanwhile, the CMAQ program funds transportation initiatives aimed at reducing congestion and improving air quality in areas that do not meet the national air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter, as well as in former non-attainment areas that have since achieved compliance.

Scoring Criteria

CTCs prioritize applications within their respective counties using a structured framework. For Metro, project evaluation in Los Angeles County is based on four main criteria. Projects must be eligible for CMAQ and/or STBG funds, and implementing agencies must meet the necessary qualifications. They must align with Metro's adopted plans and policies, with special priority given to projects supporting the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games). Additionally, projects should demonstrate community support through public outreach, feedback from workshops or surveys, and endorsements from community organizations or subregional boards. Implementing agencies must also show the capacity to meet funding deadlines and obligations, with priority given to projects that can be completed before June 2028 to support the Games.

SCAG's proposed scoring criteria further refine project evaluation, assigning specific point values to various factors. County prioritization, which assesses the ranking of projects by CTCs, carries the highest weight at 50 points. Regional priorities, which focus on key program and project categories aligned with the adopted Connect SoCal plan, account for 20 points. Another 20 points are allocated for Federal Performance Management Areas, measuring how well a project supports FHWA performance goals, such as transportation system safety, national highway pavement and bridge conditions, national highway system performance, freight movement, the CMAQ program, transit asset management, and transit system safety. Community economic development benefits are also considered, with 10 points awarded to projects benefiting populations in Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities. Lastly, air quality improvements and cost-effectiveness are assessed for CMAQ-eligible projects, with 10 points allocated based on cost-effectiveness relative to similar projects. Additional points will be awarded to projects contributing to PM2.5 reduction.

Local Match Requirements

A non-federal local match of 11.47% is required for this program. The use of toll credits for these funding opportunities is subject to availability at the time the project is programmed in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program. If toll credits are not deemed eligible by SCAG, the City will identify a cash match in lieu of toll credit funding. Attachment A outlines candidate projects and proposed local match funding sources.

Project Selection, Prioritization, and Development

LADOT followed the Council-approved project selection and prioritization process for transportation grants outlined in the Departmental staff report in CF 14-0499-S5. All recommended projects meet the core criteria outlined in the report's grant eligibility checklist. The criteria in that report includes assessing projects for policy consistency, project readiness, grant eligibility and competitiveness, timeline requirements, and project implementation and resource needs assessment. To aid in this process, LADOT

relies on the Mobility Investment Program to identify, evaluate, and prioritize candidate projects, in collaboration with BSS and BOE. To ensure projects can meet project readiness requirements, staff advanced projects that have completed their design phase and can feasibly obligate awarded funding prior to Fiscal Year 2029-30. In order to ensure projects can meet stringent federal funding requirements, staff prioritized partially-funded projects with existing federal grant sources that already meet federal funding requirements, such as procurement and reporting requirements. Following this internal prioritization and project readiness assessment, City staff has identified the 21 projects listed in Attachment A for submission to the 2025 CMAQ/STBG Program solicitation.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should there be sufficient toll credits available as eligible local match, there will be no impact to the City's General Fund. In the case that toll credits are not available, the City will need to identify alternative sources to meet the required 11.47% local match. Attachment A identifies the local match funding source should toll credits not be available.

There is no immediate impact on special funds; however, for projects awarded grant funding, City agencies, in conjunction with the Office of the City Administrative Officer, will identify the recommended front funding appropriations from available and appropriate funding sources in that fiscal year to deliver the projects (i.e., design, project management, construction and inspection). Funding in subsequent budget years will be determined by the Mayor and Council each year as part of the annual budget process.

LRC:TC:cr/rg

Attachment A: List of Recommended Projects for STBG/CMAQ Program Funding

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Project Name	Proposed Project Limits	Department Lead	Council Office	Requested Funding Amount	Local Match Amount	Local Match Funding Source*
Mission Mile: Sepulveda Visioning for a Safe and Active Community	Sepulveda Boulevard between Rinaldi Street and Rayen Street; Brand Boulevard between Sepulveda Boulevard and Memory Park Avenue	BSS	7	\$32,000,000	\$3,700,000	Prop C
Connecting Canoga Park ATP Project	Owensmouth Avenue between Valerio Street and Vanowen Street; Sherman Way between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and De Soto Avenue; Orange Line Trail between Valerio Street and Vanowen Street; Valerio Street between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Lurline Avenue; and Variel Avenue between Valerio Street and Bassett Street	BSS	3	\$15,000,000	\$7,900,000	Prop C
Broadway Manchester Project	West Manchester Avenue between Vermont Avenue and South Broadway; South Broadway between Manchester Avenue and Imperial Hwy	BSS	8	\$35,000,000	\$7,000,000 \$3,600,000	Prop C Vision Zero
Broadway Our Way Medians	Broadway between Manchester Avenue and Imperial Hwy	BSS	8	\$3,000,000	\$344,100	Prop C
Western Our Way	Western Avenue between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Century Boulevard; and parallel roadways, Denker Avenue and Gramercy Place	BSS	8	\$13,500,000	\$1,550,000	Prop C

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Sepulveda First Last Mile	Sepulveda Boulevard between Victory Boulevard and Hatteras Street; Hatteras Street between Sepulveda Boulevard and Norwich Avenue; Oxnard St between Sepulveda Boulevard and Noble Avenue; Intersection of Victory Boulevard and Orion Avenue	BSS	4, 6	\$300,000	\$300,000	Measure M
Rock the Boulevard	Eagle Rock Boulevard between York Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard and neighboring streets	BSS	14	\$35,000,000	\$4,100,000	Prop C
Parthenia Landscape Improvements	Parthenia Place between Burnet Avenue and Columbus Avenue	BSS	6	\$2,000,000	\$229,400	Prop C
Osborne Street Path to Park Access Project	Osborne Street between San Fernando Road and Foothill Boulevard	BSS	7	\$12,000,000	\$1,376,400	Prop C
Normandie Beautiful: Creating Neighborhood Connections in South LA	The project area is bounded by Washington Boulevard to the north, La Salle Avenue to the west, Vermont Avenue to the east, and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the south	BSS	8	\$13,500,000	\$1,548,450	Prop C
SR 710 Valley Blvd Multi Modal Transportation Improvements Project	Valley Boulevard and Mission Road between the SR 710 terminus and Union Station	BOE	14	\$22,447,600	\$2,574,739	Toll Credits
SR 710 Huntington Boulevard Multi Modal Transportation Improvements Project	Huntington Boulevard at Kendall Avenue to Mission Road at Valley Boulevard	BOE	14	\$4,000,000	\$458,800	Toll Credits

Project Name	Proposed Project Limits	Department Lead	Council Office	Requested Funding Amount	Local Match Amount	Local Match Funding Source*
SR 710 Eastern Avenue Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Project	Eastern Avenue between Huntington Drive and Valley Boulevard	BOE	14	\$12,500,000	\$1,433,750	Toll Credits
Mobility Wallet	N/A	LADOT	Various	\$4,000,000	\$458,800	Toll Credits
Los Angeles River Phase IV	LA River between Riverside Drive and Forest Lawn Drive	LADOT	4	\$4,000,000	\$457,000	Prop C
112th Street and Flornoy Elementary Schools Safety Improvements Project	One-quarter mile radius around 112th Street and Flornoy Elementary Schools in Watts	LADOT	15	\$5,600,000	\$642,320	Prop C
Alexandria Avenue Elementary School Neighborhood Safety Improvement Project	One-quarter mile radius around Alexandria Avenue Elementary School in East Hollywood	LADOT	10, 13	\$2,500,000	\$286,750	Prop C
Liechty Middle and Neighborhood Elementary Schools Safety Improvement Project	One-quarter mile radius around 10th St. ES, Gratts LAYS, Gratts EEC, Liechty MS in Central Los Angeles	LADOT	1	\$14,100,000	\$1,617,270	Prop C
Panorama City Elementary School Project	One-quarter mile radius around the Panorama City Elementary School in the San Fernando Valley	LADOT	6	\$7,900,000	\$906,130	Prop C
Carver Middle, Ascot Avenue and Harmony Elementary Schools Project	One-quarter mile radius around Carver Middle, Ascot Elementary and Harmony Elementary Schools in Southeast Los Angeles	LADOT	9	\$6,950,000	\$797,165	Prop C

Project Name	Proposed Project Limits	Department Lead	Council Office	Requested Funding Amount	Local Match Amount	Local Match Funding Source*
Center City Schools Neighborhood Safety and Climate Resilience Project	The 21-school project area in the City's core is bounded by Oxford Avenue to the west, Beverly Boulevard to the north, Lafayette Park Place to the east, and 4th and 7th Streets to the south	LADOT	10	\$13,900,000	\$1,594,330	Prop C

* Local funds needed should toll credits not be available at the time the project is programmed in the FTIP