



VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)
VCTC Large Conference Room
751 East Daily Drive, Suite 420, Camarillo, CA
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

(Action may be taken on any item listed on the agenda)

- ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER**
- ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENT**
- ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT**
Under the Brown Act, the committee should not act on or discuss matters raised during the Public Comment portion of the agenda which are not listed on the agenda. Committee members may refer such matters to staff for facts or to be placed on the subsequent agenda for consideration.
- ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**
- ITEM 5 CALTRANS UPDATE**
Recommended Action:
- Receive and discuss
- Responsible Staff: Peter De Haan, Programming Director**
- ITEM 6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Recommended Action:
- Approve the meeting minutes from October 2024.
- Responsible Staff: Jeni Eddington, Administrative Assistant**
- ITEM 7 CLEAR GUIDE PRESENTATION**
Recommended Action:
- Receive and file.
- Responsible Staff: Amanda Fagan, Transportation and Sustainability Director**
- ITEM 8 STATUS OF CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ), SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG), AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) PROJECTS**
Recommended Action:
- Receive and file.
- Responsible Staff: Geiska Velasquez, Program Manager**
- ITEM 9 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) PROPOSED PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES FOR FHWA-ADMINISTERED FUNDING / PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR 2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS**
Recommended Action:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a committee meeting, please contact the Administrative Assistant at (805) 642-1591 ext. 111. Notification of at least 48 hours (about 2 days) prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

- Receive and file.

Responsible Staff: Peter De Haan, Programming Director

ITEM 10

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Regional Transportation Funding & Planning
- Transportation Emergency Response (Fire and Flood Seasons)
- Active Transportation Plans Roundtable
- Active Transportation Program Grants Future Funding
- Construction Project Updates (upon completion)
 - County of Ventura - El Rio Sidewalk Project (2024)
 - City of Ventura - Santa Paula Branch Line Bike Trail (2024)
 - City of Oxnard - Rice Street Grade Separation Project (2024)
 - VCTC - Highway 101 Planning Updates

ITEM 11

ADJOURN TO WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024, AT 1:30 P.M., at the Ventura County Transportation Commission located at 751 East Daily Drive Suite 420, Camarillo, CA 93010

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VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC)
VCTC Large Conference Room
751 East Daily Drive, Suite 420, Camarillo, CA
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
1:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin Link, City of Simi Valley (Vice Chair)
Andrew Grubb, City of Camarillo
Debbie O’Leary, City of Oxnard
Mike Tohidian, City of Thousand Oaks
Anitha Balan, County of Ventura
Letitia Austin, Port of Hueneme

MEMBERS ABSENT: City of Fillmore
City of Moorpark
City of Ojai
City of Santa Paula
City of Ventura
Port of Hueneme

EX OFFICIO PRESENT: Robert Wong, Caltrans District 7

EX OFFICIO ABSENT: California Highway Patrol
Gold Coast Transit District
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District

VCTC STAFF PRESENT: Peter De Haan, Programming Director
Heather Miller, Programming Manager

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- ITEM 1** **CALL TO ORDER**
Vice Chair Link called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- ITEM 2** **INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENT**
Gianfranco Laurie, County of Ventura, introduced himself.
- ITEM 3** **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.
- ITEM 4** **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** – None.
- ITEM 5** **CALTRANS UPDATE**
Robert Wong updated the committee on upcoming meetings, trainings, and workshops.
- ITEM 6** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION

Grubb moved, seconded by Balan, that the committee approve the meeting minutes from September 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) PROPOSED PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES FOR FHWA-ADMINISTERED FUNDING / PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR 2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Peter De Haan updated the committee on SCAG's proposed programming procedures for FHWA-administered funding 1) including a brief history of the programming these funds, 2) federal requirements, 3) the creation of new guidelines, and 4) challenges associated with deadlines and lapsing funds.

ITEM 8 STATUS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (ATP) PROJECT COSTS

Gianfranco Laurie, County of Ventura, provided an update on the El Rio project including the community background, location, scope, challenges (drainage, easements, dense population), bid summaries, and lessons learned.

ITEM 9 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (ATP) CYCLE 7 REGIONAL PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY

ACTION

O'Leary moved, seconded by Tohidian that the committee approve the methodology to prioritize local projects for funding under the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Component of the ATP Cycle 7 Call for Projects, as amended.

ITEM 10 SENATE BILL (SB) 1 TRADE CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR HUENEME ROAD WIDENING PRE-CONSTRUCTION

ACTION

O'Leary moved, seconded by Austin, that the committee approve grant application for \$11,340,000 in SB 1 funds through the SB 1 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), to provide 60% of the estimated cost for the final design and right-of-way phases for the project to widen Hueneme Road between Edison Road and Rice Avenue in Ventura County

ITEM 11 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee discussed scheduling future agenda items.

ITEM 12 ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Link adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.



Item 8

November 20, 2024

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TTAC)
FROM: GEISKA VELASQUEZ, PROGRAM MANAGER
SUBJECT: STATUS OF CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ), SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG), AND CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION:

- Review and provide updates if needed to Project schedules shown in Attachment "A".

BACKGROUND:

Under federal law, STBG and CMAQ funds apportioned to California lapse if they are not used within three years of their apportionment. AB 1012, which became law in October 1999, applies the three-year lapsing rule to CMAQ and STBG and VCTC has therefore made it a practice to track the obligation of these funds for projects in Ventura County to ensure the region does not lose funds.

As the Committee is aware, compliance issues were raised by the FHWA/FTA during SCAG's 2022 certification review and a corrective action ordered, such that STBG and CMAQ project selection can no longer be delegated to RTPAs within the region. Instead, SCAG, as the designated MPO, conducts the selection process for these funds as was done in 2023. Therefore, the entirety of funds allocated to the SCAG region are now considered "regional" funds. Nevertheless, VCTC must continue to track the obligation of these funds for the purposes of informing SCAG so that it can work with Caltrans to manage the SCAG region's overall Obligation Authority (OA).

VCTC also uses project schedules to ensure that the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) includes all of the projects which are ready for obligation. The table also includes the funds from the Carbon Reduction Program, along with the CMAQ funds.

VCTC therefore requests agencies to review the projects funded with CMAQ, STBG and CRP funds as listed in Attachment "A" and inform VCTC staff regarding whether the anticipated obligation dates and information for the projects are correct.

**Item 8
Attachment A**

VENTURA COUNTY CMAQ/CRP/STBG PROJECTS FY 2024/25							
Project Title	Agency	FTIP ID #	Planned Obligation (E-76 date)	Amount	Funding Type	Current Project Status	FTIP Status
Pleasant Valley Rd Bike Lanes	Camarillo	VEN160103	Feb-25	\$500,000	CMAQ	CON obligated but \$500,000 of ROW funds will be used for CON in FY24/25 (yet to be obligated)	Waiting for approval of 2025 FTIP Amendment
Ventura Avenue Bike Lanes & Other Improvements CON	Ventura County Public Works	VEN210603	Feb-25	\$752,000	CMAQ	CMAQ Funds Programmed for PE - \$175,000, CMAQ Funds Programmed for CON - \$672,000, Request a transfer of \$80,000 from PE to CON for a total of \$752,000.	Waiting for approval of 2025 FTIP Amendment
Simi Valley Electric Bus Portable Battery Chargers	Simi Valley Transit	VEN240603	Feb-25	\$168,000	CRP	Project to obligate in early 2025.	Project was programmed in the 2023 FTIP and needs to be amended into the 2025 FTIP.
Transit Outreach Activities	VCTC	VEN54070	Apr-25	\$636,000	CMAQ	Program is ongoing	Waiting for approval of 2025 FTIP Amendment to obligate/transfer funds.
Replacement of 5 buses with 5 hydrogen fuel cell buses	Gold Coast Transit District	VEN230104	Aug-25	\$2,836,000	CMAQ/CRP	Awaiting approvals of various funding types to obligate by August of 2025.	CMAQ programmed in 2025 FTIP - awaiting approval of amendments to include CRP.
Ventura Road Demonstration Route	Gold Coast Transit District		Aug-25	\$1,300,000	CMAQ	Awaiting inclusion into the 2025 FTIP and spending down of prior grants to obligate.	Waiting for an amendment to include project in the 2025 FTIP when adopted
Total obligations in FY 24/25				\$6,192,000			
FY 25/26 and Beyond							
Project Title	Agency	FTIP ID #	Planned Obligation	Amount	Funding Type	Current Project Status	FTIP Status
Lynn Road Bike Lanes	City of Thousand Oaks	VEN230119	25/26	\$922,839	CMAQ/STBG	Design started in June 2025. CON anticipated 25/26.	CON to PS&E to cover increased design costs, \$1,588,756 obligated in FY2022/23. CMAQ/STBG placeholder funds programmed in FTIP for \$923 for CON 25/26 with additional ATP funds.
Pedestrian and Bike Safety Improvements; Ojai Avenue and Maricopa Hwy.	City of Ojai	VEN170113	25/26	\$1,324,000	CMAQ	First portion under construction, CMAQ portion awaiting final direction for final construction in FY 25/26	CMAQ funds are programmed in the 2023 FTIP and awaiting January amendment to include in 2025 FTIP
HAWK Bike and Ped	City of Ventura	VEN230121	25/26	\$2,622,373	CMAQ	Design started in June 2025. CON anticipated 25/26.	Design of \$498,424 obligated in June 2025. \$2633 in STP as placeholder CMAQ CON in 25/26 in FTP.
Central Avenue Bike Lanes	City of Camarillo	VEN230302	25/26	\$643,000	CMAQ	Design started in June 2025. CON anticipated 25/26.	Currently Programmed in FY 25/26 in current FTIP. Includes \$326 in STP-Regional (as placeholder for CMAQ) and \$4667 in STIP AC RIP and \$317 in CMAQ for total of \$643 in CMAQ.
Oxnard Accessible Pedestrian Improvements	City of Oxnard	VEN230120	25/26	\$2,597,509	CMAQ/CRP	PE obligated, \$2,222 CMAQ/CRP to be obligated in 25/26	Programmed in 2025 FTIP for CON in 25/26



October 16, 2024

MEMO TO: TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)
PROPOSED PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES FOR FHWA-ADMINISTERED
FUNDING / PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR 2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION:

- Receive and file

BACKGROUND:

As has been previously discussed, in 2021 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) notified Caltrans that multi-county Metropolitan Planning Organizations such as SCAG must play a more active role in the selection of projects to be funded with the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, and indicated that SCAG must adopt a new process for selection of projects for these funds whereby projects are prioritized on a regional basis. VCTC had previously received a specific apportionment of these funds and submitted a recommended project list to SCAG for review and approval. FHWA later indicated that the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) established under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) would also be subject to the new MPO-led process.

The federal agencies required that the new regionwide competitive programming process must be in place by June 30, 2024, thus allowing VCTC and the other county commissions to continue programming projects until then. Since Caltrans had already apportioned to counties the funds made available by IIJA, VCTC conducted its own call for projects, with projects to use the Ventura County apportionment approved by the Commission on December 2, 2022. The projects approved by VCTC were then forwarded to SCAG for programming in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) as provided under the old policy.

SCAG staff worked closely with the county transportation commissions to develop regionwide CMAQ, STP, and CRP call for projects guidelines which identified that all proposed projects must first be prioritized and approved by the applicable county transportation commission prior to being nominated by SCAG. The first regionwide call for projects under the new guidelines was opened on January 4, 2024, with the Commission approving the recommendations to SCAG on March 1, 2024. On June 6, SCAG approved the project award list consisting of 61 projects totaling \$279.7 million, which included 11 projects in Ventura County totaling \$11.6 million.

Now that SCAG has approved the first list of projects selected on a regionwide competitive basis, it has now turned its attention to establishing policies for ongoing program management. On September 12th, SCAG staff provided the county commissions staff with a proposed draft for Programming Procedures, with comments due back by September 30th, and VCTC staff submitted comments.

SCAG's proposed Programming procedures address a number of issues, including deadlines for project delivery and consideration of requests for increased funding due to cost increases.

SCAG staff has also commenced writing Guidelines for a second regionwide call for projects in 2025. The previous funding cycle programmed an incremental increase in funds projected to be available under the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA), which extends through Fiscal Year 2025/26. The upcoming call for projects will program two-years' of additional funds, for FY 2026/27 and FY 2027/28, based on the assumption that federal transportation programs will be reauthorized after the IIJA. VCTC staff has been told that the project application preparation period will tentatively be from early April to mid-May 2025. Staff expects that next year's call for projects will provide a significantly larger amount of funds than SCAG's first call, since it will represent two years of full funding, while last year's call only programmed an incremental increase in IIJA-period revenue where most of the funds had previously been committed. Staff will provide the Committee with more details regarding the call for projects as the guidelines' development moves forward, including information on the estimated funding targets for Ventura County.

ANALYSIS

A significant issue raised by the proposed programming procedures is deadlines by which projects must obligate funds or lose them. In particular, SCAG is proposing that all funds programmed prior to June 2023, when the old programming rules ended, must be obligated by mid-December 2026, with no provision for extensions. Since the IIJA extends through FY 2025/26, some of the projects programmed in VCTC's call for project were scheduled for obligation in FY 2025/26, so this provision will mean that those projects will lose their funds if they experience more than a few months' schedule delay.

The federal STP, CMAQ, and CRP funds lapse if not obligated within three years of the year of apportionment. For many years, the counties in the SCAG region have made this requirement applicable to the individual projects, so approved projects have three years to spend their funds, unless an extension is approved. VCTC has been unusual in that it has not placed such a requirement on individual projects but has instead considered the apportioned funds to be spent under "first in / first out" and expected that the agencies in the county as a whole will maintain timely delivery so that the overall apportionment would not lapse, even if a limited number of projects experience delays. But now that apportionments to individual counties are not permitted, it is reasonable that SCAG would adopt a regionwide lapsing policy that continues the general practice in most of its region.

As for the proposed requirement that projects programmed prior to June 2023 must be obligated by mid-December 2026, even if they are programmed in FY 2025/26, with no possibility of extension, VCTC staff and some of the other counties have raised this issue in their comments to SCAG regarding the draft policies. Nevertheless, at this time all agencies with projects funded prior to the first SCAG call for projects should consider that those funds might be required by SCAG to be obligated no later than December 2026.

It should also be noted that under federal law, the name STP has been changed to Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), so going forward VCTC will be referring to that program as STBG.