



Project Prioritization Framework for the Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Call-for-Project Nominations

Per the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) 2025 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program guidelines, County Transportation Commissions (CTCs), such as the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), must develop a Project Prioritization Framework outlining how projects nominations submitted within Ventura County will be prioritized for funding as part of the final SCAG selection.

This Call-for-Project Nominations will primarily make funding available from apportionments for obligation in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-27 and FFY 2027-28. STBG and CMAQ funding are subject to the Timely Use of Funds with obligation or Federal Transit Authority (FTA) transfer deadlines for these apportionment years being September 30, 2029, and September 30, 2030, respectively.

All applicants must submit project nomination via the SCAG online portal by May 16, 2025. VCTC will evaluate and score Ventura County project nominations based on the following prioritized criteria.

VCTC Project Prioritization Framework:

1) Applicant and Project Eligibility (20 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will screen applicants and projects for eligibility with federal and regional requirements. Projects must be eligible for STBG and/or CMAQ funds, as detailed in 23 USC Sec. 133, 149
 - i) Eligible Project Nominations will receive a Score of **20 points** and categorized by eligibility.
 - ii) Ineligible Projects will receive a **Score of 0** and not be recommended for funding this cycle.

2) Deliverability and Readiness (20 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will evaluate potential implementing agencies and whether they have sufficient capacity and technical expertise to meet required federal deadlines and will evaluate project nominations for potential deliverability issues which will lose points if an agency consistently fails to deliver without adequate justification. VCTC will otherwise prioritize project delivery as such:
 - i) STBG/CMAQ projects currently programmed in the 2025 FTIP but have never been through a SCAG call-for-projects process that are applying to retain the project in the 2027 FTIP will receive **20 points**.
 - ii) Projects funded in a prior STBG/CMAQ Call-for-Projects that need additional funding to fully deliver the project and follow the federal aid process will receive **20 Points** for deliverability.
 - iii) Projects funded in the Active Transportation Program (ATP) that need additional funding to fully deliver the awarded project following the federal aid process will receive **17 points**.
 - iv) Projects that have fully funded or completed all project development phases, including PAED and PS&E, that need funding for construction and/or implementation **in or prior to FFY 2026-27** following the federal aid process, will receive **14 points**.
 - v) Projects that have fully funded or completed all project development phases, including PAED and PS&E, that need funding for construction and/or implementation **in or prior to FFY 2027-28** following the federal aid process, will receive **11 points**.



- vi) Projects requesting the full spectrum of project delivery including PAED, PS&E, and CON to obligate and/or transfer in or prior to end of **FFY 2026-27** will receive **8 points**.

3) Transit Coordination (10 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with demonstrated attention to Transit related development, coordination, and connections throughout Ventura County.
 - i) Project nominations that are Transit in nature (bus purchases, etc.) will receive **10 points**
 - ii) Projects with a connection to Transit, and/or a benefit to Transit Riders will receive **5 points**.

4) Community/Stakeholder Engagement (5 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with demonstrated community support for a total of 5 Points. Community support may be determined through a variety of means, including (but not limited to):
 - i) Responses to public outreach, including comments received at public meetings or hearings, feedback from community workshops, survey responses, etc, will receive **5 points**.

5) Implementation of Regional and Transportation Plans (5 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with projects identified in the Ventura County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).
 - i) Project nominations implementing projects identified in Ventura County CTP in Scenario A, B, or C will receive **5 points**.

6) Older Adult, Disabled, and Limited Mobility Consideration (5 Points Available)

- a) VCTC will prioritize project nomination applications with demonstrated attention to the needs of the community members experiencing significant mobility limitations.
 - i) Project nominations with demonstrated attention to the needs of individuals with mobility disabilities will receive an additional **5 points**. This may be determined through a variety of means, including (but not limited to): ADA elements of the project nomination, documented outreach to groups in this category, letter of support from an agency serving this community.

VCTC Prioritized Project Nominations:

VCTC will develop a Project Prioritization Nomination package based on this Project Prioritization Framework for SCAG’s consideration. The following point distribution to be applied to VCTC scored projects and provided to SCAG for review and scoring according to the 2025 Guidelines Appendix E.

VCTC Project Prioritization Nomination	Points to SCAG
Highly Recommended (Scoring higher than 50 on VCTC Prioritization)	50 Points
Recommended (Scoring between 40-50 on VCTC Prioritization)	40 Points
Contingency List (Scoring between 20-40 on VCTC Prioritization)	20 Points
Not Recommended (Scoring below 20 on VCTC Prioritization)	0 Points