Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program

FY 2017-18

Strategic Partnerships & Sustainable Communities

Presented by

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
Several recent major efforts prompted a realignment of the Grant Program:

- Caltrans Mission: *Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California’s economy and livability*
- California Transportation Infrastructure Priorities Vision and Core Concepts
- State Smart Transportation Initiative Assessment and Recommendations
- Caltrans Program Review Major Actions
- California Transportation Plan 2040 Vision and Goals
- Smart Mobility 2010 Principles
Grant Program Overarching Objectives

*Identified to ensure consideration of State priorities/objectives:*

- Sustainability
- Preservation
- Mobility
- Safety
- Innovation
- Economy
- Health
- Equity
Strategic Partnerships

Who May Apply?

Eligible Primary Applicants Include: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) with a current Master Fund Transfer Agreement with Caltrans Headquarters Office of Regional Planning.

Eligible sub-applicants include:

- MPOs/RTPAs
- Universities & Community Colleges
- Native American Tribal Governments
- Cities & Counties
- Community-Based Organizations
- Non-Profit Organizations (501.c.3)
- Other Public Entities
Strategic Partnerships

Budget

- The Strategic Partnerships Grants are funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA State Planning and Research, Part I). The FHWA has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds.
- Approximately $1.5 million will be available for the FY 2017-18 grant cycle.
- 20% minimum non-federal local match of the total project amount.
- Minimum grant $100,000;
- Maximum grant only MPOs $1,000,000; All others $500,000.
Strategic Partnerships

Grant Specific Objective

- To achieve the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives;
- Encourage regional agencies to partner with Caltrans to identify and address statewide/interregional transportation deficiencies in the state highway system;
- Strengthen government-to-government relationships; and,
- Result in programmed system improvements.

“Climate-Ready Transportation” connects Grant program into the Governor’s EO B-30-15
Strategic Partnerships

Example Project Types

▶ Studies that identify interregional, inter-county, and/or statewide mobility and access needs
▶ Corridor studies and corridor performance/preservation studies
▶ Studies that evaluate transportation issues involving ground access to international borders, seaports, airports, intermodal facilities, freight hubs, and recreational sites
▶ Studies for relinquishment of state routes
▶ Statewide research or modeling tools
▶ Transportation demand management plans
▶ System investment prioritization plans
Sustainable Communities

Who May Apply?

Eligible Primary Applicants Include:

- MPOs/RTPAs with a current Master Fund Transfer Agreement with Caltrans Headquarters Office of Regional Planning
- Cities & Counties
- Transit Agencies
- Native American Tribal Governments

Eligible sub-applicants include those listed above, as well as:

- Universities & Community Colleges
- Community-Based Organizations
- Non-Profit Organizations (501.c.3)
- Other Public Entities
Sustainable Communities

**Budget**

- The Sustainable Communities Grants are funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA § 5304) and the State Highway Account. The FTA has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds.

- Approximately $7.8 million will be available for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 grant cycle. Funding distribution will depend on the quality and quantity of applications in each applicant pool, i.e., (1) MPOs/RTPAs; and, (2) cities and counties, transit agencies, and Native American Tribal Governments.

- 11.47% local match of the total project amount.

- Minimum grant $50,000;

- Maximum grant only MPOs $1,000,000; All others $500,000.
Sustainable Communities

Grant Specific Objective

- To achieve the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives;
- Identify and address mobility deficiencies in the multimodal transportation system including the needs of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities;
- Encourage stakeholder collaboration;
- Involve active public engagement;
- Integrate Smart Mobility 2010 concepts; and,
- Ultimately result in programmed system improvements.
Sustainable Communities

**Example Project Types**

- Studies that advance a community’s effort to reduce transportation related greenhouse gases
- Studies that assist transportation agencies in creating sustainable communities
- Community to school studies or safe routes to school plans
- Studies that advance a community’s effort to address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise
- Studies that address environmental justice issues in a transportation related context
- Jobs and affordable housing proximity studies
- Context-sensitive streetscapes or town center plans
- Bike and pedestrian safety enhancement plans
- Traffic calming and safety enhancement plans
Sustainable Communities

**Example Project Types**

- Corridor enhancement studies
- Complete street plans
- Studies that evaluate accessibility and connectivity of the multimodal transportation network
- Health equity transportation studies
- Climate change adaptation plans for transportation facilities
- Transit plans, surveys and research
- Identification of policies, strategies, and programs to preserve transit facilities and optimize transit infrastructure
- Short range transit development plans
- Transit marketing plans
- Social service improvement studies
## Local Match Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Partnerships FHWA SPR, Part I Funds (MPO/RTPAs)</th>
<th>Sustainable Communities FTA 5304 Funds (MPO/RTPAs)</th>
<th>Sustainable Communities SHA funds (Cities/Counties, Transit Agencies, Tribal Governments)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-federal match source</td>
<td>Non-federal match source</td>
<td>Any source, including federal if the source allows for this purpose</td>
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The minimum local match is a percentage of the total project cost (i.e., minimum local match amount plus the grant amount).

The minimum local match must be rendered during the invoicing period of requested reimbursement and must be provided with every invoice.

The local match can be all cash, all third party in-kind contributions, or a combination of the two.

In-kind contributions require an In-Kind Valuation Plan to be submitted for approval as a condition of grant acceptance.

The Local Match Calculator is accessible at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/Grants/2015/Match_Calculator.xlsx
## Characteristics of Competitive Applications

### Tips for Writing a Competitive Application

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<tr>
<th>Include Caltrans’ Roles</th>
<th>Receive feedback from Caltrans District staff prior to the deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provide letters of support</td>
<td>Provide photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clearly demonstrate how the project promotes State and Federal Transportation Planning Goals</td>
<td>Clearly define the transportation problem and address every aspect of the Grant Specific Objective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative tasks do not exceed 5 percent of the grant request</td>
<td>Support the problem with concrete data, if available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants require to describe how they met goals under State Transportation &amp; Federal Transportation Goals Checklist</td>
<td>Describe how this project will lead to implementation of future projects and the impact of not funding the grant application</td>
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Anticipated Schedule for FY 2017-18 Grant Awards

**Application Period**
- August 29, 2016 - Grant Application Guide Release Date
- November 4, 2016 - Grant Applications Due via E-mail by 5 PM to Regional.Planning.Grants@dot.ca.gov

**Evaluation Period**
- November / December - District Review
- January / February - Headquarters Review
- February / March - Management Approval of Funding Recommendations

**Preliminary Notifications**
- March / April - Preliminary E-mail Notices Inform Applicants of the Outcome

**Official Award Letters**
- April - Award Letters with Conditions of Grant Acceptance

**Project Start Date**
- July/September - Grantees may begin grant-funded work, pending State Budget approval.
Project Start Dates

MPO/RTPAs

Consider these dates when developing the Scope of Work and Project Timeline:

► **July 2017** - Anticipated start date, pending State Budget approval

► **June 30, 2020** - Project end date when reimbursable work must be completed

► **Final Request for Reimbursement** - Final Request for Reimbursement must be filed no later than 60 days after the end of the fiscal year to coincide with the submission of the Overall Work Program (OWP) Final Expenditure Report.
Project Start Dates

*Cities/Counties, Transit Agencies, Native American Tribes*

Consider these dates when developing the Scope of Work and Project Timeline:

- **September 2017** - Anticipated start date, pending State Budget approval
- **February 28, 2020** - Project end date when reimbursable work must be completed
- **April 28, 2020** - All final invoices must be submitted to Caltrans for approval and reimbursement. This allows Caltrans sufficient time to comply with the State Controller’s Office payment requirements.
Grants Website:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html
Questions?

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