



FFY 2026-27 & FFY 2027-28 STBG/CMAAQ Program Call for Projects Workshop

March 12, 2025

March 18, 2025

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Agenda

1. Overview
2. Initial Considerations for Federal Funding
3. Eligibility
4. Funding
5. Schedule
6. Evaluation Criteria & Rubric
7. Online Application Demo
8. Upcoming Program Activities
9. Q&A



About SCAG

- The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the designated metropolitan planning organization for Southern California
- Primary responsibilities include:
 - [Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy \(Connect SoCal\)](#)
 - [Federal Transportation Improvement Program \(FTIP\)](#)
 - Project selection for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program funds as of July 1, 2023

6
COUNTIES

16
TRIBAL
GOVERNMENTS

191
CITIES

18.7M
RESIDENTS



Overview

- The STBG and CMAQ programs are federal transportation fund sources from the [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#).
- This workshop will provide information on the upcoming STBG/CMAQ call for project nominations and project selection process.
- Once projects are selected and awarded funding, they must be programmed in the FTIP.
- Implementing agencies will then need to work directly with their California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Local Assistance District in order to obligate funding and process reimbursement requests.

Project selection process
and awards (SCAG)



FTIP programming
(SCAG)



Obligation
(Caltrans Local Assistance)



Reimbursement
(Caltrans Local Assistance)

Three Initial Considerations



Is my organization an eligible applicant?



Is my project eligible?

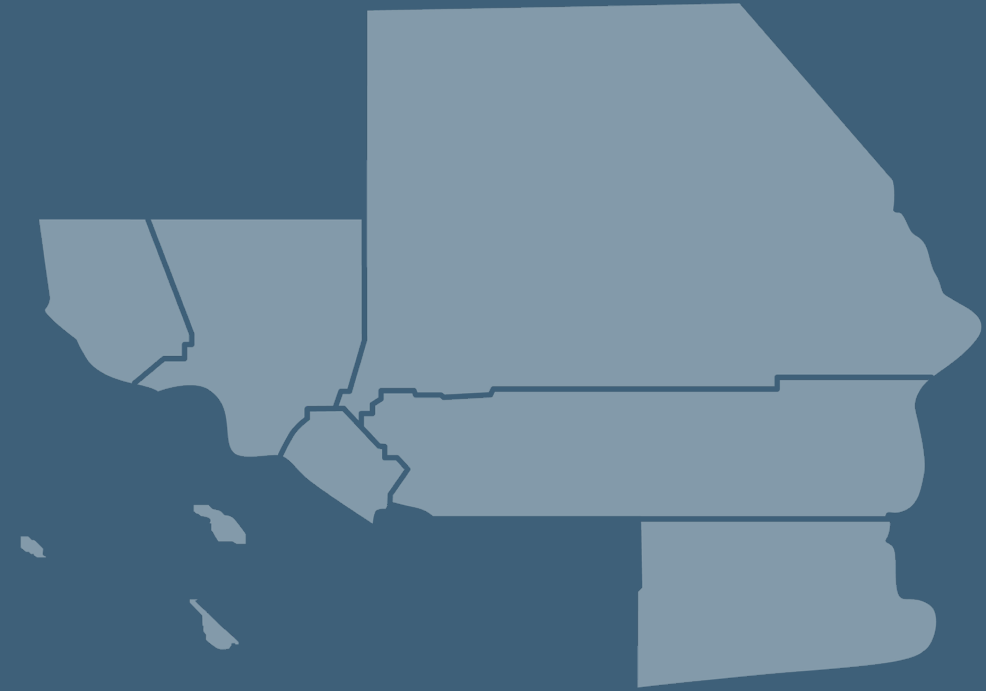


Does my agency have the technical capacity to meet the program requirements, manage, and deliver a federal-aid project?

Eligibility - Applicants

In general:

- Cities in the SCAG region
- Counties in the SCAG region
- Transit agencies
- Federally recognized Tribal Governments
- County transportation commissions



All applicants should have, or be eligible to enter in to, a federal-aid master agreement with Caltrans. Transit projects should coordinate with their county transportation commissions on Federal Transit Administration roles and responsibilities prior to submittal.

For more information on federal-aid master agreements, please visit Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual [Chapter 4 Agreements](#), [Exhibit 4-B Local Agency Agreement Execution Checklist](#), and [Exhibit 4-C Federal-Aid Master Agreement](#)

Eligibility- STBG Projects/Activities



The STBG program is a federal funding source that may be used for projects to **preserve and improve the conditions and performance** of highways, bridges, and public roads; pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure; and transit capital projects.

Eligible activities must meet statutory eligibility requirements within 23 USC 133. Please refer to [STBG Program Implementation Guidance](#) for more information on eligibility.

Ineligibility: In general, STBG projects may not be undertaken on a road functionally classified as a local road or a rural minor collector unless the road was on a federal-aid highway system on January 1, 1991.



For more information on roadway classification, please visit [Caltrans' Functional Classification website](#).

Eligibility- CMAQ Projects/Activities



The CMAQ program was established to help fund transportation projects and programs that contribute to the attainment or maintenance of the [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#).

Eligible activities must meet statutory eligibility requirements within 23 USC 149. Please refer to the [CMAQ Program Interim Guidance](#) for more information on eligibility.

Common CMAQ ineligible projects/activities:

- Projects that add new capacity for single occupancy vehicles
- Routine maintenance and rehabilitation projects
- Utility relocations, landscaping, stormwater mitigation
- Recreational trails
- Americans with Disabilities Act retrofits and barrier removal

Foundations of CMAQ Eligibility

1. Transportation project
2. Emissions reductions
 - NO_x, VOCs, CO, Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 or PM10
3. Nonattainment or maintenance area
 - All of SCAG region

Is My Agency Ready for Federal Funding?

Administration in coordination with Caltrans Local Assistance and subject to Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual (LAPM) which describes the procedures required to process Federal and State funded local transportation projects.

This includes:

- Federal regulations related to environmental assessments, where environmental reviews may require securing resource agency permits or additional technical reports.
- Labor compliance - Projects funded with federal dollars must adhere to Davis-Bacon wage requirements, which mandate that workers are paid prevailing wages.
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation.
- Risk assessment and management plans must be in place to mitigate potential issues, and strict quality control and assurance measures are required.

Is My Agency Ready for Federal Funding? (Continued)

- Additional design standards prompted by federal funds.
- Federal regulations required for right-of-way.
- Consultant selection requirements.
- Federal funding is not guaranteed to cover cost increases.
- Match requirements.

Important consideration:

Project delivery will generally require more time and more resources than a locally funded project.



Non-SCAG Selected Projects in the 2025 FTIP

- SCAG administration of project selection began **July 2023**.
- **ALL** projects that are programmed with STBG or CMAQ funding after **December 2026**, must be SCAG-selected either through the **prior call** for projects or through **this call** for projects, in order to be carried over into the 2027 FTIP.
- Funding for projects that have not obligated and have not been SCAG selected after this date will be considered lapsed and will become available for re-programming to other SCAG-selected projects.
- Projects with programming in prior FFY's that no longer require new obligations do not need to be re-selected.



Funding

Funding Availability: Estimated **\$1.2 billion** of STBG & CMAQ available in this call.

Obligation Deadline: STBG and CMAQ funds are subject to the Timely Use of Funds provisions outlined in Assembly Bill 1012 (Chapter 783 and the Statutes of 1999).

| Federal Fiscal Year | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | Total |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| STBG Funding | \$ 306 million | \$ 313 million | \$ 619 million |
| CMAQ Funding | \$ 304.9 million | \$ 311 million | \$ 615.9 million |
| Obligation Deadline | 9/30/2029 | 9/30/2030 | |

Matching Funds: A minimum of **11.47%** cash match or toll credits.

Distribution: Reimbursement basis. Implementing agencies must have sufficient cashflow to front project costs, and technical capacity to prepare invoices for eligible costs, to be reviewed for reimbursement.

For more information on matching funds, please visit [LAPM Chapter 3 Project Authorization](#) and for more information on invoicing/reimbursements, please visit [LAPM Chapter 5 Invoicing](#).

Schedule

| MILESTONE | DATE |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Guidelines Adoption | March 6, 2025 |
| SCAG-Hosted Workshops | March 12, 2025 March 18, 2025 |
| Online Application Opens | March 31, 2025 |
| SCAG Office Hours | Available Upon Request* |
| Application Due Date | May 16, 2025 at 5pm |
| CTC Prioritization Due to SCAG | August 1, 2025 |
| SCAG Awards | November or December 2025 |
| FTIP Programming | Begins December 2025 |

*To sign up for SCAG office hours, please complete the form - [Office Hours Sign Up](#)

Evaluation Criteria & Rubric





| SCORING CRITERIA | POSSIBLE POINTS |
|--|-----------------|
| CTC Prioritization: CTC project prioritization (Highly Recommended, Recommended, Contingency, Not Recommended) | 50 Points |
| Regional Priorities: Based on primary program category (Tier 1 or Tier 2). | 20 Points |
| Federal Performance Management Areas: Assessment of the degree that the proposed project demonstrates support for FHWA/FTA Federal Performance Management Areas. | 20 Points |
| Community Economic Development Benefits: Assessment of the degree that the proposed projects advances community economic development benefits. | 10 Points |
| Air Quality Improvements and Cost-Effectiveness: For CMAQ-eligible projects, projects will be evaluated on cost-effectiveness relative to similar projects. Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 reducing projects will receive additional points. | 10 Points |

Please also refer to the [STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines Appendix E: Detailed Scoring Rubric](#).

CTC Prioritization

Each county transportation commission (CTC) will develop a framework that will be applied to all project applications within their county to determine the CTC's prioritization ranking. Each application will receive a CTC prioritization ranking (Highly Recommended, Recommended, Contingency, Not Recommended) which will be translated to a score in SCAG's regional evaluation of the project.

CTCs must minimally incorporate the following criteria within their evaluation:

-  Eligibility
-  County priorities
-  Community/stakeholder engagement
-  Deliverability and readiness

Please note:

CTCs may require supplemental questions within the application in order to conduct their evaluation.

For more information, please see the [STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines Appendix A and Appendix E](#).

Regional Priorities – Tier 1



Clean Transportation – alternative fuel and zero-emission vehicles/buses, infrastructure, and equipment investments that reduce criteria pollutant emissions.



Resilience of At-Risk Infrastructure – projects to improve resilience of at-risk transportation infrastructure from extreme weather events to improve transportation and public safety and to reduce costs by avoiding larger future rebuilding costs.



Transit and Multimodal Integration – support increasing transit/rail ridership, new or upgrades to transit/rail facilities, Operating assistance to sustain or expand service (subject to CMAQ new project limitation), microtransit, fare subsidies. Transit/rail safety and security projects.



Transportation Demand Management (TDM) – TDM activities to reduce Single-Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) use including carshare, vanpool, and shared micromobility. Projects to enhance travel and tourism.



Transportation System Management and Goods Movement – highway or local roadway projects that improve traffic flow, optimize truck and bus throughput, or increase travel time reliability. Includes Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), truck parking facilities, and on-dock rail projects.

Regional Priorities – Tier 2



Complete Streets – complete streets projects to enable safe use and mobility for all users.



Natural Lands Preservation – projects that support the preservation of and access to natural lands.



System Preservation – projects that maintain existing transportation systems and facilities.

An additional five-points may be awarded to projects in Tier 2 categories, for which applicants can also demonstrate a systems approach to identifying and managing need.

For more information, please see the [STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines Appendix B and Appendix E](#).

Federal Performance Management Areas

Federally-established set of national transportation performance measures that correspond to federal transportation planning goals.

- Performance Management 1 - Transportation System Safety
- Performance Management 2 - National Highway System Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Performance Management 3 - National Highway System Performance, Freight Movement, and CMAQ Program Performance
- Transit Asset Management
- Transit System Safety

The application will include the option to provide general responses and/or project specific responses. Responses that provide *project-specific data* that demonstrates an improvement to the federal performance management area will score higher. Responses that demonstrate a *significant* improvement to the federal performance management area will score higher.

For more information, please see Connect SoCal 2024 "[Performance Monitoring Technical Report](#)" and the [STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines Appendix C](#).

Community Economic Development Benefits



Applicants will have the option to select up to 10 strategies that have been determined to contribute to advancing community economic development benefits in the SCAG region. Applicants will need to provide a supplemental narrative demonstrating how their project employs the strategies selected.

These strategies will target [Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities](#) which are defined as either of the following:

- Any county (or equivalent jurisdiction) with greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty as indicated through the [BUILD Grant Project Location Verification mapping tool](#).
- Any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent, as measured by the five-year data series available from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and available through the BUILD Grant Project Location Verification mapping tool.

For more information, please refer to the [STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines Appendix D](#) and the Connect SoCal 2024 “[Equity Analysis Technical Report](#).”

Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ Projects Only)

CMAQ eligible projects will have the opportunity to receive an additional **8 points** based on cost-effectiveness relative to similar projects.

- Applicants will be asked to utilize the [FHWA CMAQ Toolkit](#) to provide emissions data in kg/day for the following criteria air pollutants: VOC, CO, NOx, PM10, and PM2.5.
- If one of the 18 tools available doesn't work for the proposed project, other methodologies will be accepted.

Projects that are in the top 50% of PM2.5 reducing projects will receive up to an additional **2 points**.

Applicants can reach out to their CTC for additional technical assistance if needed.

Cost Effectiveness (CMAQ Projects Only)



- **Total project cost:** cost for all phases of the project
- **Annual air quality improvements** = VOC + CO + NO_x + PM₁₀ + PM_{2.5} annually
- **Project lifetime in years:** expected project lifetime

For more information, please refer to the [STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines Appendix E](#).

Stretch Break

Application Demo

New users will need to sign-up for an account

| Sign-Up Fields | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Organization | If the name of your organization is not in the drop down, please select "new lead agency" |
| Requested Plans | Please select your corresponding county transportation commission. |
| Requested Access Level | Please select "sponsor". |
| Requested Project Access | Please select "My organizations projects" |

1 SELECT PLAN REVISION 2 ENTER PROJECT DETAILS

Creating a New Project

First choose a Plan Cycle and open Plan Revision to track review/approval for your new project.

Plan Cycle *

Only Plan Cycles with an open Plan Revision are displayed

Plan Revision *

* Indicates required fields

Can't find the Plan Revision you are looking for?
[Contact your ProjectTracker administrator](#) to let them know.

CANCEL CONTINUE

Orange County and Los Angeles County existing FTIP users may use their FTIP account information. This will require a password reset.

Office Hours and County-Specific Activities

SCAG Office Hours: opportunity for one-on-one Q&A, and project specific support with SCAG staff. To sign up for SCAG office hours, please complete the form - [Office Hours Sign Up](#) CTC staff may also attend at their discretion/availability.

| County | Planned County-Specific Activities |
|----------------|---|
| Orange | Virtual Workshop - March 19 th 11 a.m. to noon |
| Los Angeles | Virtual Workshop - March 24 th 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Riverside | Virtual Workshop - March 24 th 11 a.m. to noon |
| Ventura | On-Site Workshop - March 25 th 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. |
| Imperial | Virtual Workshop - March 27 th 10 a.m. to noon Please note that this workshop will take place as part of the March ICTC Technical Advisory Committee meeting. |
| San Bernardino | Please reach out to SBCTA staff for information on the Project Prioritization framework applicable to applicants in San Bernardino County and opportunities for office hours. |

Additional CTC Assistance:
Please reach out to your respective CTC staff contact regarding additional technical assistance opportunities.

References and Resources

- [SCAG STBG/CMAQ Program webpage](#)
- [Office Hours Sign Up](#)
- [SCAG FFY 2026-27 & FFY 2027-28 STBG/CMAQ Guidelines](#)
- [Factors to Consider Before Applying for Federal Funds](#)
- [STBG Program Implementation Guidance](#)
- [CMAQ Program Interim Guidance](#)
- [Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual](#)
- [Connect SoCal 2024 "Performance Monitoring Technical Report"](#)
- [Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities](#)
- [BUILD Grant Project Location Verification mapping tool](#)
- [Connect SoCal 2024 "Equity Analysis Technical Report"](#)
- [Caltrans' Functional Classification website](#)
- [FHWA CMAQ Toolkit](#)
- [Federal Transportation Improvement Program](#)

California Local Technical Assistance Program

Upcoming Training Schedule

Pavement Construction Specifications & Quality Assurance - 3/5/25 - 3/13/25, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT

Traffic Signal Operations: Coordination for Corridors - 3/4/25 - 3/13/25, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Resident Engineers Academy - 3/10/25 - 3/14/25, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM PT

Transportation Planning Fundamentals for California Streets - 3/11/25 - 3/13/25, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM PT

California MUTCD Overview and Updates - 3/31/25 - 4/3/25, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PT

SYNCHRO & SimTraffic for Traffic Studies - 4/1/25 - 4/3/25, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Asphalt Concrete Materials & Mix Design - 4/14/25 - 4/17/25, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM PT

Pedestrian Facilities: Planning & Design for Accessibility & Safety - 4/22/25 - 4/24/25, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT

Traffic Signal Design: Engineering Concepts - 4/23/25 - 4/24/25, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM PT

Caltrans Local Assistance Day - 5/6/25, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM PT

SYNCRHO & SimTraffic for Signal Coordination - 5/6/25 - 5/15/25, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Resident Engineers Academy - 5/12/25 - 5/16/25, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM PT

Q&A/Open Discussion

Please type your question in the chat.

Please note, we will not be responding to project-specific eligibility questions. These may be directed to SCAG staff, county transportation commission staff, or Caltrans Local Assistance staff in email or as part of the office hours opportunities.





THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK:

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