

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 24-25, 2020

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8v.(9), Action Item

Prepared By: Dee Lam, Chief (Acting)
Division of Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO AMEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED TIME EXTENSIONS FOR SENATE BILL 1 LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS, PER THE INTERIM TIMELY USE OF FUNDS POLICY WAIVER 20-62**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) amend the period of project allocation for four projects, programmed in the Senate Bill 1 Local Partnership Program (SB1 LPP), in Fiscal Year 2018-19?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation recommends the Commission amend the period of project allocation for four projects, programmed in the SB1 LPP, in 2018-19.

BACKGROUND:

At this time, these agencies will not be able to request an allocation for funds by the June 30, 2020 deadline due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The attachment shows the details of the projects and the explanations for the delays. The project sponsors are requesting extensions, and the regional planning agencies concur.

Current 2018 LPP Guidelines, adopted by the Commission, stipulate that funds that are programmed for all components of local grant projects or for Department construction costs are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year identified in the LPP. The Commission may approve a waiver to this "timely use of funds" deadline, one-time only, for up to 12 months. Under the adopted Interim Timely Use of Funds policy, an extension can be requested for up to 20-months for each delivery milestone, where permissible by statute, to address impacts to project delivery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attachments

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline Amendment
Local Partnership Program**

Project Number: 1
Applicant: Transportation Agency for Monterey County
County: Monterey
District: 5
PPNO: 2820
Extended Amount: \$250,000
Phase: Project Approval and Environmental Documents
Number of Months Requested: ~~12~~ **20 Months**
Extended Deadline: ~~06/30/2020~~ **02/28/2021**
Department Recommendation: Support

State Route 156 Safety Improvements - Blackie Road Extension project

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) requests an 8-month time extension amendment to allocate funding for the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase of the State Route 156 Safety Improvements - Blackie Road Extension project. TAMC encountered delays to the environmental clearance due to coordination efforts.

The project proposes to extend Blackie Road to connect to a new interchange at State Route 156 and Castroville Boulevard. This will provide a new connection from the major distribution center in south Castroville, reducing traffic and congestion. TAMC has experienced a reduction in staffing. As a result, TAMC has not been able to begin work on the project as planned. TAMC is in the process of hiring more staff and has made this project a priority for new staff. It is anticipated that the recruitment process along with on-boarding the new staff and preparing to begin work on the project will take an additional 12 months. The County of Monterey (County) is the project sponsor for the Blackie Road Extension project. However, with the current COVID-19 pandemic (Pandemic), the County has directed staff to focus on emergency repairs and critical infrastructure around the County as the priority rather than starting new projects. Additionally, the County has endured challenges with recruiting new staff to provide sufficient capacity to manage their projects. The pandemic has made it difficult for the County to hire new staff and maintain existing staff. With the uncertainty over how long the outbreak and shelter in place orders will last, and when the County will be able to again fully staff their Public Works Department, the TAMC is requesting an additional 8 months for the allocation deadline of this project.

Therefore, TAMC requests to amend Waiver 19-31, originally approved in June 2019, from a 12 to **20-month** time extension to allocate PA&ED by ~~June 30, 2020~~ **February 28, 2021**.

Project Number: 2
Applicant: Transportation Agency for Monterey County
County: Monterey
District: 5
PPNO: 2898
Extended Amount: \$163,000
Phase: Construction
Number of Months Requested: ~~42~~ **18 Months**
Extended Deadline: ~~06/30/2020~~ **12/31/2020**
Department Recommendation: Support

Regional Wayfinding Program

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) requests a 6-month time extension amendment to allocate funding for the construction (CON) phase of the Regional Wayfinding Program.

The project proposes to connect all major communities across Monterey County with a signed network of 369 miles of regional bicycle and pedestrian routes serving schools, parks and open spaces, employment centers and downtown areas. To prepare for the installation of the signage, the Agency needs to coordinate with each of the participating local jurisdictions and establish a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out the transfer of ownership and the maintenance requirements for the jurisdictions. This includes presentations to Planning Commissions, Technical Advisory Committees, City Councils, and Board of Supervisors that will take an additional 12 months to complete. By extending the 2018-19 funds, the Agency will be able to align the allocation and expenditures with other fund sources to match the construction schedule. However, with the current COVID-19 outbreak and shelter in place orders, this work cannot be safely conducted, which would potentially risk exposing staff and contractors to the public while not being able to maintain the recommended 6-foot separation. The TAMC is tentatively scheduling this work to take place in the late Summer or early Fall of 2020, and as such is requesting an additional six months to the already approved time extension for this project.

Therefore, the Agency requests to amend Waiver 19-18, originally approved in May 2019, from a 12 to **18-month** time extension to allocate CON by ~~June 30, 2020~~ **December 31, 2020**.

Project Number: 3
Applicant: City of Hesperia
County: San Bernardino
District: 8
PPNO: 1244
Extended Amount: \$3,900,000
Phase: Construction
Number of Months Requested: ~~42~~ **20 Months**
Extended Deadline: ~~06/30/2020~~ **02/28/2021**
Department Recommendation: Support

Ranchero Road Widening Project

The City of Hesperia (City) requests an 8-month time extension amendment to allocate funding for the construction (CON) phase of the Ranchero Road Widening Project. The agency encountered unanticipated delays in completing the environmental phase of the project.

The project proposes to widen Ranchero Road and includes replacing a bridge over the Department of Water Resources' California Aqueduct (Aqueduct), widening a Union Pacific Rail Road at-grade crossing, and relocating various utilities. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has required the City to raise the proposed bridge vertically by 10 feet to increase separation from the bottom of the bridge to the top of the Aqueduct. The Aqueduct crossing will require approval and permit issuance from DWR. The City has submitted preliminary plans (65 percent completion) to DWR and anticipates submitting draft final plans (95 percent completion) by June 2019. Transitions connecting into the existing and proposed street improvements were also extended significantly on both sides of the bridge. As a result, an additional environmental document, a Mitigated Negative Declaration, is required. The additional environmental document will be circulated for public comment and will remain open for comment in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, which is generally 30 days. After this has been completed and approved, the City can commence right of way (RW) acquisition. The City expects the RW process to take up to 10 months. In addition, the City found that a County Service Area (CSA) waterline exists in the public RW within the projects limits and the vertical alignment is only 12 inches deep. Additional field investigations determined that the waterline has shallow cover and must be relocated to a deeper depth. The relocation plans must be reviewed and approved by the CSA. The City anticipated to complete final design and allocate CON by June 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and mandated shelter in place directive, has caused delays that prevents the City from meeting this schedule. Currently, on-site field verifications and collaboration are limited at the project site. City and state employees are telecommuting and continue to work out the logistics to adapt. Since staff are not in the office, it is taking much longer than normal to coordinate work, respond to communications, and obtain necessary signatures and approvals with all project partners.

Therefore, the City requests to amend Waiver 19-31, originally approved in June 2019, from a 12 to **20-month** time extension to allocate CON by ~~June 30, 2020~~ **February 28, 2021**.

Project Number: 4
Applicant: City of Calimesa
County: San Bernardino
District: 8
PPNO: 1247
Extended Amount: \$3,747,000
Phase: Construction
Number of Months Requested: ~~42~~ **20 Months**
Extended Deadline: ~~06/30/2020~~ **02/28/2021**
Department Recommendation: Support

County Line Road Transportation Corridor project

The City of Calimesa (City) requests an 8-month time extension amendment to allocate funding for the construction (CON) phase of the County Line Road Transportation Corridor project. The agency encountered unanticipated delays in completing the design phase of the project.

The project proposes to construct one multi-lane roundabout and four single-lanes, together with street, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements, in the cities of Yucaipa and Calimesa (Cities). Each roundabout required several design alternatives to minimize Right of Way (RW) impacts, accommodate existing structures and driveways, and provide efficient and safe geometrics. The roundabouts affect several parcels and coordination with the property owners has slowed this process. The City anticipates four full RW takes will be required. This was not anticipated and has added to the overall project timeline and will require more time to process compared to partial acquisitions. Furthermore, environmental impacts cannot be defined until the City resolves the RW acquisition. The City expects to complete environmental documents and obtain RW certification by December 2020, which includes time for the environmental document to be submitted to the Commission for approval. In addition, the South Mesa Water Company (SMWC) notified the Cities that there are two waterlines within the project limits that require upgrades. The SMWC needs time to design and begin waterline construction prior to the start of project construction. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and mandated shelter in place directive, has caused delays that prevents the City from meeting this schedule. Acquisition processing has ceased because the older residents that own most of the properties where acquisitions are needed, have expressed concerns about the pandemic. They are unwilling to cooperate until COVID-19 has subsided. In order to complete acquisitions, the City typically meets in person with residents to discuss dimensions and existing and proposed property limits, private improvement relocations/replacements, appraisal contents and fair market value calculations, and execute right-of-way acquisition documents. Additionally, the court system in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are not hearing cases of eminent domain and are not receiving any new filings.

Therefore, the City requests to amend Waiver 19-31, originally approved in June 2019, from a 12 to **20-month** time extension to allocate CON ~~June 30, 2020~~ **February 28, 2021**.