

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 19-20, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.3, Information

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Published Date: March 6, 2026

Subject: Presentation of the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program Staff Recommendations

## **Summary:**

The 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) staff recommendations total \$2.5 billion in transportation investments statewide over five years. This total includes:

- \$1.6 billion in previously approved funding carried forward from the 2024 STIP; and
- \$950.5 million in new programming capacity available in the 2026 STIP cycle.

The STIP is a formula funding program. Projects are submitted by regional agencies through Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs) and by Caltrans through the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) and are recommended consistent with statutory funding formulas and Commission guidelines.

Of the \$950.5 million in new programming capacity, the staff recommendations include \$486 million for rail, transit, and standalone active transportation projects, representing slightly more than half of the new capacity. The remaining funds support upgrades to key freight mobility and safety improvements, highway corridors and interchanges, operational enhancements, and managed lane facilities. These investments include the addition of a High-Occupancy Vehicle/Express Bus facility, truck climbing lanes, corridor safety improvements, and interchange reconstructions.

Multimodal elements are also incorporated into many highway and local road projects. In addition to \$141 million in standalone active transportation projects, approximately 21 percent of the funding recommended for new highway and local road projects includes active transportation features, such as crosswalks, bicycle lanes, and other complete streets components.

Within the new programming capacity of \$950.5 million:

- \$913.8 million is programmed for new projects or new phases of projects; and
- \$36.7 million reflects regional program administration, cost increases, cost decreases, and project deletions from the 2024 STIP.

Staff recommendations were released and posted to the Commission's website on February 27<sup>th</sup> and can be located at: <https://catc.ca.gov/programs/state-transportation-improvement-program>.

**Background:**

State law requires the Commission update the STIP biennially in even-numbered years. Each update adds two new years of programming and maintains previously approved commitments. By statute, new available funding is distributed with 75 percent to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), to counties by formula, and 25 percent to the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP).

For the 2026 STIP cycle, the 2026 Fund Estimate identified:

- \$1.1 billion in new programming capacity, and
- a negative programming capacity of \$133 million carried over from 2025-26.

After accounting for the \$133 million carryover, the 2026 Fund Estimate identified approximately \$951.6 million in net programming capacity. Staff recommends to program \$950.5 million in new commitments.

Only projects eligible under the STIP Guidelines are recommended for programming. Adoption of the 2026 STIP is scheduled under Reference No. 4.4 following this information item.