

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 20-21, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.23, Information

Prepared By: Anja Aulenbacher
Associate Deputy Director

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Subject: Update on Applications Received for the 2027 Active Transportation Program

Summary:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) adopted the 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines and the 2027 Active Transportation Program Fund Estimate on March 19, 2026. The adoption of the guidelines initiated a call for projects to distribute a total of \$619,320,000 in funding for fiscal years 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30, and 2030-31. The 2027 Active Transportation Program funds are distributed via three components, as follows:

- Fifty percent of the total funding is available for programming in the Statewide Component for a total of \$309,660,000.
- Ten percent of the total funding is available for programming in the Small Urban and Rural Component for a total of \$61,932,000.
- Forty percent of the total funding is available for programming in the Metropolitan Planning Organization Component for a total of \$247,728,000.

Statewide applications for the 2027 Active Transportation Program were due to the Commission on June 22, 2026. The Commission received 317 applications, with projects valued at \$4.4 billion and funding requests totaling \$2.99 billion, almost five times greater than the program's available funding level. Approximately 96 percent of the requested funds would benefit disadvantaged communities, highlighting the ongoing critical unmet demand for active transportation facilities in the state's most vulnerable communities.

The applications are currently being evaluated by the Active Transportation Program's multidisciplinary evaluation team of 98 volunteers. Each evaluation team must submit consensus scores by August 21, 2026. Commission staff concurrently provides check score evaluations of all applications to ensure consistency, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) staff reviews all applications for deliverability. Commission and Caltrans staff will conduct debrief meetings with each evaluation team after consensus scores are submitted.

Commission staff intends to release the staff recommendations for the Statewide Component and the Small Urban and Rural Component on November 2, 2026. Recommendations for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Component are due to the Commission by April 23, 2027.

Background:

The Active Transportation Program was created by Senate Bill 99 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) and Assembly Bill 101 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 354, Statutes of 2013) to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Senate Bill 1 (Beall, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) directs additional funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account to the Active Transportation Program. Along with the program's overall purpose of encouraging walking and biking, the program aims to increase the share of walking and biking trips, increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, help regional agencies achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance public health, ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in program benefits, and provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

The 2027 Active Transportation Program Guidelines describe the policies, standards, criteria, and procedures for the program's development, adoption, and management. The guideline development workshops have been open to all interested stakeholders, including state, federal, local, and regional agencies, Tribal governments, and organizations interested in walking, biking, active transportation, safe routes to school projects, environmental, social equity, and other perspectives. The 2027 Active Transportation Program represents the program's eighth cycle.