

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 29, 2020

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.3, Action

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Subject: **Amendment to the 2020 SB 1 Competitive Program Schedules. Resolutions G-20-52, G-20-53, G20-54, Amending Resolutions G-20-33, G-20-26, G-20-35**

## Issue:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the proposed amendment to the schedules for the 2020 Local Partnership Competitive Program, the 2020 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, and the 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program?

## Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the amendment to the schedules as proposed in this book item.

In mid-March program stakeholders started reaching out to Commission staff expressing concerns regarding the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff held a virtual public workshop on April 8, 2020 to provide an opportunity for Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, cities, counties, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders to discuss the impacts applicants could face during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the workshop stakeholders were presented with potential schedule revision options to solicit input on what would be recommended to the Commission. In summary, stakeholders expressed the following:

- Delaying the programs' adoption beyond December 2020 may further contribute to the economic impacts the state is already experiencing as a result of the pandemic.
- Some agencies have shifted workload priorities to respond to recent COVID-19 related workload.

- Many of the staff who apply to these programs are now teleworking, which may slow down work processing times.
- Agencies have limited opportunities to conduct stakeholder engagement or coordinate with federal and state agencies when developing their applications in the current working environment.
- A few agencies were supportive of delaying the schedules by three months, including application submittal, evaluation, staff recommendation posting and program adoption.
- Several agencies reiterated their support of keeping the adoption of all three programs together instead of staggering the adoption across multiple Commission meetings.
- Several agencies requested additional time to prepare applications with that additional time offset by less time for Commission staff review.

After considering all input received and to address delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Commission staff recommends amending the program schedules as outlined below.

Program	Local Partnership (Competitive)	Solutions for Congested Corridors	Trade Corridor Enhancement
Call for Projects (No Change)	Mar. 25, 2020	Jan. 29, 2020	Mar. 25, 2020
Original Application Due Date	June 12, 2020	June 30, 2020	July 15, 2020
Application Due Date (Revised)	June 30, 2020	July 17, 2020	Aug. 3, 2020
Staff Recommendations (No Change)	Nov. 12, 2020	Nov. 12, 2020	Nov. 12, 2020
Program Adoption (No Change)	Dec. 2-3, 2020	Dec. 2-3, 2020	Dec. 2-3, 2020

The recommended changes balance the different perspectives shared during the April 8, 2020 workshop and addresses the impacts of COVID-19 by providing additional time for agencies to complete applications while still allowing for sufficient application evaluation time.

The revised schedule also allows for program adoption as originally scheduled at the December 2020 Commission meeting. The December 2020 program adoption date for these programs will allow projects to continue to move forward as quickly as possible, supporting jobs and the economy.

For the 2020 Local Partnership Formulaic Program of Projects, the Commission will adopt project nominations on a case-by-case basis in advance of the program schedule as provided for in the adopted 2020 Local Partnership Guidelines.

**Background:**

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 placing into effect an order requiring all individuals in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence, to protect the health and well-being of all Californians due to the State of Emergency resulting from COVID-19.

Guidelines for the 2020 Solutions for Congested Corridors program were adopted at the January 2020 Commission meeting. Guidelines for the 2020 Local Partnership Competitive Program and the 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program were adopted at the March 2020 Commission meeting. Once guidelines were adopted, applicants were officially invited via a press release to begin preparing their applications through a call for projects. The guidelines for these programs all include a schedule that specifies a due date for applications. The Solutions for Congested Corridors Program call for projects started on January 29, 2020, which provided two months to prepare project nominations prior to the State of Emergency being issued. The Local Partnership Competitive Program and the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program call for projects were released after the State of Emergency was issued, on March 25, 2020.

At the time of guideline adoption in March 2020, the potential effects of the COVID-19 State of Emergency on applicants' ability to submit an application by the deadlines was not known, however, Commission staff committed to re-evaluating the program schedules and bringing forward amended schedules at the May meeting for Commission approval.

**Resolution G-20-52 Amending Resolution G-20-33**

Be it Resolved, that the Commission adopts an amendment to the 2020 Local Partnership Competitive Program Schedule, outlined in the Amended Schedule above; and that the amended schedule is only applicable to the 2020 Local Partnership Competitive Program Schedule.

Be it Further Resolved, that all other provisions stipulated in Resolution G-20-33 remain in effect.

**Resolution G-20-53 Amending Resolution G-20-26**

Be it Resolved, that the Commission adopts an amendment to the 2020 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program Schedule, outlined in the Amended Schedule above; and that the amended schedule is only applicable to the 2020 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program Schedule.

Be it Further Resolved, that all other provisions stipulated in Resolution G-20-26 remain in effect.

**Resolution G-20-54 Amending Resolution G-20-35**

Be it Resolved, that the Commission adopts an amendment to the 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Schedule, outlined in the Amended Schedule above; and that the amended schedule is only applicable to the 2020 Trade Corridor Enhancement Program Schedule.

Be it Further Resolved, that all other provisions stipulated in Resolution G-20-35 remain in effect.