

2021 Active Transportation Program Staff Recommendations – Statewide and Small Urban & Rural Components

The Active Transportation Program was established by the legislature in 2013 to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. The Active Transportation Program consists of three components; the statewide component (50% of the funds), the small urban & rural component (10% of the funds), and the large Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) component (40% of the funds).

Attached are the Staff Recommendations for the Statewide and Small Urban & Rural Components of the 2021 Active Transportation Program. Please be advised that these are the staff recommendations only. The program of projects will not be finalized until the California Transportation Commission (Commission) adopts the program at its March 24-25 meeting. Projects located within the boundaries of one of the 10 large MPOs (Fresno Council of Governments, Kern Council of Governments, Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, San Diego Association of Governments, San Joaquin Council of Governments, Southern California Association of Governments, Stanislaus Council of Governments, and Tulare County Association of Governments) that were not selected in the statewide component will be considered for funding through the MPO component.

The Commission received 454 project nominations seeking approximately \$2.3 billion in Active Transportation Program funds. The Commission established 50 two-person teams of volunteer evaluators to evaluate the project submittals.

The project recommendation scoring cut-off was 92 points for the statewide component and 90 points for the small urban & rural component. There is not sufficient funding to fully fund the four projects in the small urban & rural component that scored a 90. Therefore, consistent with the Active Transportation Program Guidelines, Commission staff used a secondary ranking system to choose which projects to recommend. This secondary ranking consisted of first prioritizing infrastructure projects, secondly project readiness, and then prioritizing projects that scored the highest on Question 2 of the application – Potential for Increased Walking and Biking.

Statewide Component – Staff Recommendation Summary

- 41 projects, totaling \$241.541 million (includes the Active Transportation Resource Center)
- 100% of funds directly benefit disadvantaged communities
- 23 projects are Safe Routes to School projects

Small Urban and Rural Component – Staff Recommendation Summary

- 9 projects, totaling \$44.156 million
- 100% of funds directly benefit disadvantaged communities

- 7 projects are Safe Routes to School projects

Background

In November 2019, the Commission initiated the process to develop the 2021 Active Transportation Program by holding two kick-off workshops, one in Sacramento and one in Los Angeles. Following the kick-off workshops, the Commission held 19 workshops to develop the program guidelines and refine the applications and scoring rubrics. These workshops included consultation with stakeholders representing regional agencies, local governments, school districts, and non-governmental organizations. The Commission's guidelines, adopted at its March 25, 2020 meeting and amended on April 29, 2020, describe the policy, standards, criteria, and procedures for the development, adoption and management of the 2021 Active Transportation Program.

The Commission established the 2021 Active Transportation Program as a four-year (Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2024-25), \$445.56 million program. Under Assembly Bill 97 (Chapter 14, Statutes of 2017), \$4 million in fiscal year 2021-22 funding must be directed toward projects developed and implemented by the California Conservation Corps and Certified Local Community Conservation Corps, leaving \$441.56 million for 2021 Active Transportation Program projects. Of this total, \$220.78 million was initially available for the statewide component program and \$44.156 million for the small urban & rural component. Another \$25.161 million in funding was made available for the statewide component through accumulated savings from past funding cycles bringing the statewide component total to \$245.941 million. Of this total, the Commission took action in October 2020 to award \$4.4 million to quick-build projects.

Project nominations were due to Caltrans on, or postmarked by, September 15, 2020.