



MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
FROM: Dale Robins
DATE: May 12, 2017
SUBJECT: CY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program Call For Projects

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue a call for urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects, utilizing estimated calendar year 2021 funds. The call for projects will be conducted consistent with the process outlined in the Transportation Programming Guidebook, which is available along with other project development materials from the RTC website at <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/tip>.

The goal is to continue to build upon the successful regional project development process that has been utilized in previous years. The three step project development process includes the following steps:

- 1) Projects will be reviewed for consistency with local and regional policies;
- 2) Projects will be evaluated and ranked based on the approved selection criteria; and
- 3) Projects will be selected and programmed based on their ranking.

Projects selected through the regional project selection process must be drawn either directly from specific project recommendations made in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or developed from a more general series of RTP recommendations including safety, bicycle, pedestrian, or other recommendations. Projects that add single-occupant capacity must be a result of project needs identified by the Congestion Management Process and be listed in the RTP.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) invites public agencies in the Clark County region to submit applications for estimated calendar year 2021 federal urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

The STP-Urban and CMAQ funds are allocated to the Clark County MPO area and programmed by the RTC Board of Directors. The STP funds can be used for a wide range of transportation purposes. The CMAQ funds can be used for transportation projects that will contribute to meeting the attainment of national air quality standards within the Clark County Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area (basically the Vancouver, Camas, and Washougal urban areas). For

An advisory committee to:

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CMAQ funds, emphasis will be given for electric and natural gas vehicle infrastructure, diesel retrofits, and cost effective congestion mitigation activities that provide air quality benefits.

These federal funds all require a minimum 13.5% local match. In order to receive federal funds, the applicant must have either a “Certification Acceptance” (CA) status or have a CA agency agree to manage their project. Also, projects are required to meet regional screening criteria. **Project applications are due to RTC on Friday, July 14, 2017.**

Please note that applicants can only request funds in the fourth year of the TIP (2021), but RTC’s process does allow for funds to be obligate up to one year in advanced (2020).

REGIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA

All applications must meet the following project screening criteria:

- Project is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Local Comprehensive Plans, and Congestion Management Process. (*Projects that add single-occupant capacity must be listed in the RTP*).
- Road projects must be federally classified as an urban collector/rural major collector or above.
- Projects competing for STP and/or CMAQ funds must be a capital improvement-type project. STP and CMAQ funds are not to be used for maintenance and preservation.
- STP and CMAQ funds are limited to \$4 million per project. The cap can be reached at \$4 million per mile (PE - \$0.75 M, RW- \$1.25 M, and remaining for CN), \$4 Million for shorter high cost projects, \$1 million per intersection, and \$2 million for high volume intersections (20,000 entering vehicles).
- Submitted projects should be ready to proceed and have a reasonable timeline for implementation.
- All operational improvement projects must follow the Regional Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan guidance.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MATERIALS

Project application, criteria, and other materials can be viewed and downloaded from the RTC TIP webpage at <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/tip/>.

FUNDING LEVELS

RTC will continue to program funding for projects beyond the existing federal transportation bill based on the assumption that programs and funding levels are expected to remain constant over the next four years. For the CY 2021 project selection process, RTC estimates the following funding levels:

- Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP-UL) - \$7.1 million
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) - \$2.6 million

2018-2021 TIP DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, May 19	Call for Projects
Friday, July 14	Project Applications Due to RTC
July 17-August 3	Project Evaluations by Criteria
Thursday, August 3	Agency Review of Evaluations
Tuesday, August 15	All Regionally Significant Projects entered in STIP
Friday, August 18	RTAC Recommendation on Prioritization
August-September	Prepare Draft TIP/Public Involvement
Tuesday, September 5	RTC Board Review
Friday, September 15	RTAC Recommends Adoption of TIP
Tuesday, October 3	RTC Board Adoption of TIP