



MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Member Agencies within Clark County
FROM: Dale Robins
DATE: April 3, 2019
SUBJECT: CY 2020-2023 Regional Grant Program Call For Projects

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue a call for urban Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects, utilizing estimated 2020-2023 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:

- 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 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 2020-2023 federal urban Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

The RTC Board also authorized a “one-time” exception to the \$4 million project limit on regional federal funds. The exception would apply to existing regional capital projects (roadway and transit) which can obligate a new project phase by August 2020. Eligible projects can receive a one-time boost of \$500,000 for right of way phase and \$1 million for construction.

The STBG-Urban and CMAQ funds are allocated to the Clark County MPO area and programmed by the RTC Board of Directors. The STBG funds can be used for a wide range of transportation purposes. The CMAQ funds can be used for transportation projects that will

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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).

These federal funds 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 12, 2019.**

Due to the recent increase in allocation of federal funds, the 2019 call for projects will include a call for funding in years 2020 to 2023. In addition, RTC’s process does allow for funds to be obligated up to one year in advance of the year a project is programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). RTC staff estimates the following availability of federal funds for programming in the TIP:

Year	STBG-Urban	CMAQ	Totals
2020	\$1,700,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,700,000
2021	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
2022	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$2,700,000
2023	\$5,600,000	\$3,300,000	\$8,600,000
Totals	\$10,000,000	\$4,900,000	\$14,900,000

Funds may vary based on the obligation strategy to meet 2019 obligation targets

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 STBG and/or CMAQ funds must be a capital improvement-type project. STBG and CMAQ funds are not to be used for maintenance and preservation.
- STBG 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.
- Projects that open the road for utilities must include conduit
- All operational improvement projects must follow the Regional Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan guidance.

2019 REGIONAL GRANT SCHEDULE

April 3	Call for Projects
Friday, July 12	Project Applications Due to RTC
Thursday, August 15	Local Agencies enter projects in STIP
Friday, August 16	RTAC Recommendation on Prioritization
Friday, September 20	RTAC Selection Recommendation
Tuesday, October 1	RTC Board Selection and Adoption of TIP