



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of September 23, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 4-D

PREPARED BY: Sandy Ebersole, Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT:

Short Line Rail Improvement Program Call for Projects

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

This call for projects details procedures to apply for funding under the Short-Line Railroad Improvement Program (SLRIP) (Senate Bill 87, Statutes of 2019) through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Privately owned short-line rail operators will be asked to submit a project proposal application to Caltrans by October 16, 2020, for consideration of official Project Nomination to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Publicly owned short-lines and ports with short-line rails operating on their right of way should reach out to Caltrans to discuss their proposed project, as their proposal process will be slightly different.

The Short Line Railroad Improvement Program guidelines mandates that a project must be nominated (submitted) by Caltrans or a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA). Thus, an eligible proposed project applicant will submit its project application to either Caltrans or an RTPA. Caltrans, upon screening and prioritizing project proposals received by October 16, 2020, will subsequently nominate the project to the CTC by the program's December 1, 2020 due date.

This Program provides for a one-time appropriation of seven million two hundred thousand dollars (\$7,200,000). This \$7.2 million program is a two-year competitive funding program that covers fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22. The primary objective of the Short Line Railroad Improvement Program is to fund infrastructure improvement projects designed to enable Class III/short-line railroads to improve freight mobility, efficiency, reliability, sustainability, safety, and load capacity. Eligible projects will improve freight mobility, volume thresholds, and support modern rail freight traffic and the communities and industries they serve throughout California.

Should you choose to seek Caltrans as the nominating agency To allow adequate time for Caltrans to review applications, which must be submitted to CTC by December 1, 2020, **applications must be submitted to Caltrans NO LATER THAN October 16, 2020.**

For application packets or more information about the program, please send an inquiry to:

Joshua Pulverman
Chief, Integration & Network Planning Branch
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FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget.