



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of October 22, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 4-B

PREPARED BY: Evelyn Espinosa, Senior Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Authorization to apply for FY 2026-27 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant funding to update the Short-Range Transit Plan and the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Enclosure: No

Action: Authorize staff to proceed with the application process

SUMMARY:

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program was created to support the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Mission: Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

There are three program sub-categories that fund projects that directly benefit the multimodal transportation system in specific ways.

1. **Sustainable Communities Competitive and Technical** grants fund local and regional multimodal transportation and land use planning projects that further the region's RTP SCS/APS (where applicable), contribute to the State's GHG reduction targets, and assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Objectives.
2. **Climate Adaptation Planning** grants are specifically designed to support regional and local agencies in preparing transportation systems for the effects of climate change. This grant encourages agencies to identify vulnerabilities within their transportation networks and develop strategies to adapt to climate impacts, ensuring long-term system reliability and safety.
3. **Strategic Partnerships** are intended to fund planning projects that partner with Caltrans to address needs on or connecting to the State Highway System, while the transit sub-category will address multimodal planning projects that focus on transit.

Both the Short-Range Transit Plan and the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan are set to expire in FY 26/27. Considering recent technological advancements and our transit agencies' ongoing efforts to enhance service through micro-transit initiatives, we are seeking the support of a consultant who can effectively incorporate these developments into the upcoming update of our Short-Range Transit Plan and Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan as necessary.

Staff are in the beginning stages of preparing the application, therefore the total funding request is still being determined; however, early estimates put the request in the range of \$200,000 to \$300,000. If awarded, MCTC will be required to fund the project with a local match, which is at minimum 11.47% of the total project cost (estimated in the range of \$26,000 to \$39,000). The local match can be all cash, all third-party in-kind contributions, or a combination of the two.

The grant application deadline is November 21, 2025.

The Sustainable Communities Competitive and Technical grant presents an opportunity for MCTC to update both expiring Plans and to more effectively reflect emerging trends or innovations in public transit. If successfully awarded, the project will advance essential planning efforts to integrate these developments into the next plan updates and ensure they align with current best practices and future mobility goals.

Link to Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants webpage:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/division-of-transportation-planning/regional-and-community-planning/sustainable-transportation-planning-grants>

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.