



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of March 17, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 5-G  
**PREPARED BY:** Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

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**SUBJECT:**

Funding Opportunities: (1) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (H.R. 133), and (2) Federal Earmark Process for House

**Enclosure:** No

**Action:** Authorize Executive Director with confirmation from Chair to execute any supporting documentation needed to program or develop grant information to access funds

**SUMMARY:**

*Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (H.R. 133)*

As part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, H.R. 133, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, California will receive approximately \$900 million of the \$10 billion that is provided for states through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. H.R. 133, funds can be programmed to STBG eligible projects as well as for preventative maintenance, routine maintenance, operations, and personnel.

Total funds available to California is \$911,823,218. The funds will be split 60% to State and 40% to Regions/Locals. The State will receive \$547,093,931, which will be allocated to the State Highway and Protection Program (SHOPP) and Interregional Improvement Program (ITIP). The Regions will receive \$364,729,287. It is unknown at the time of writing this staff report how those funds will be allocated. \$182,000,000 must be used in regions with a population of over 200,000. California Transportation Commission (Commission) staff has held a few workshops to discuss how the funds may be distributed. Commission staff developed three scenarios with feedback from regional planning agencies, Caltrans, and Commission staff.

Commission staff will present a recommendation to the Commission Board of Directors on March 24, 2021, and at this meeting, the Commission will adopt the distribution formula and guidelines. Project lists will be due to the Commission by late April (date will be provided soon). The project list will be noticed on May 12-13, 2021. Commission will adopt the Project List at its meeting on June 23-24. Allocations may be considered at the same time.

### Federal Earmark Process for House

Project Request information received from Chairman Peter A. DeFazio and Chairwoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

The Committee intends to provide an opportunity for Members to submit requests for highway and transit project designations. The formal process to submit project requests, including detailed information on how to submit projects and the documentation required, will be announced later this month. However, to provide Member offices as much time as possible to vet potential projects, the Committee released key information in advance of a formal rollout. The Committee strongly encourages Members to begin gathering this information now, as they anticipate the window to submit project requests will be relatively short.

In addition to basic project information, the Committee will require all submissions to include the following information for each project requested:

- Documentation that the project is on the State, Tribal, or territorial transportation improvement program (STIP); and on the metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP), if applicable.
- Sources of funding for the full share of the cost of the project beyond the amount requested.
- Letter(s) of support from the State department of transportation, or local government, transit agency, or another non-Federal sponsor.
- A description of the process that has been or will be followed to provide an opportunity for public comment on the project.
- Project phase (e.g. Planning, Final Design, Construction).
- NEPA category of action (e.g. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement).
- Status of environmental review.
- Whether the project has received Federal funding previously, and if so, the source and amount.
- Certification that the Member, their spouse, and other immediate family members do not have a financial interest in the project.

MCTC staff has reached out to Congressman Costa's office to inquire about the process and informed his staff of MCTC's interest. It should also be noted, the Committee encourages Member offices to consider projects that will help advance the goals of the surface transportation authorization legislation, which include building a safer transportation network, increasing access, strengthening our multi-modal transportation systems, reducing carbon pollution, enhancing environmental justice, supporting underserved communities, and improving state of good repair of our Nation's infrastructure.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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