

**2021 Active Transportation Program
Preliminary Staff Recommendations
Metropolitan Planning Organization Component**

The legislature established the Active Transportation Program in 2013 to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. The Active Transportation Program consists of three components; the statewide component (50% of the funds), the small urban & rural component (10% of the funds), and the large Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) component (40% of the funds).

Attached are the preliminary staff recommendations for the 2021 Active Transportation Program – Metropolitan Planning Organization component, which include recommendations for the following MPOs: Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG), Kern Council of Governments (KCOG), Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO), and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG).

Recommendations for San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) have not yet been finalized and will be published at a later date.

California Transportation Commission (Commission) staff recommendations align with Metropolitan Planning Organization recommendations. Please be advised that these are the staff recommendations only. The program of projects will not be finalized until the Commission adopts the program at its June 23-24 meeting.

In summary, staff recommends 54 projects for funding, worth \$489.786 million and totaling \$172.970 million in Active Transportation Program funding. The staff recommendations include the following:

- \$162.136 million (93.7 percent) for 46 projects directly benefitting disadvantaged communities.
- \$66.005 million (38.2 percent) for 25 Safe Routes to School projects.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Evaluation Process

The Commission adopted the 2021 Active Transportation Program Statewide and Small Urban and Rural Components on March 24, 2021. Projects not programmed the Statewide competitive program that are located within the boundaries of the ten large MPOs were distributed to the relevant MPO based on location.

Under the 2021 Active Transportation Program Guidelines, an MPO may delegate its project selection to the Commission using the Statewide competition project selection criteria; or, with Commission approval, a metropolitan planning organization may use different project selection criteria, weighting, minimum project size, and match

requirement. Additionally, an MPO may issue a supplemental call for projects for its regional competition.

The Commission approved 2021 Active Transportation Program Regional Guidelines that allowed for different project selection criteria for the following metropolitan planning organizations: FCOG, MTC, SACOG, SANDAG, SCAG, SJCOG, and TCAG. Of these MPOs, FCOG, MTC, SACOG, SANDAG, SCAG, and SJCOG issued supplemental calls for projects. KCOG, StanCOG, and TMPO did not propose 2021 Active Transportation Program Regional Guidelines.

Background

The Active Transportation Program was created by Senate Bill 99 (Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013) and Assembly Bill 101 (Chapter 354, Statutes of 2013) to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Senate Bill 1 (Chapter 2031, Statutes of 2017) directs additional funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account to the Active Transportation Program. Along with the program's overall purpose of encouraging walking and biking, the program aims to increase the share of walking and biking trips, increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, help regional agencies achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, enhance public health, ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in program benefits, and provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users. The 2021 Active Transportation Program Guidelines, which the Commission adopted at its March 25, 2020 meeting, describe the policies, standards, criteria, and procedures for the program's development, adoption, and management.