**2025 LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAM**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Senate Bill 198 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 71, Statutes of 2022) established the California Transportation Commission’s (Commission) Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program to provide funding for developing and implementing projects that adapt local surface transportation infrastructure to climate change effects.

For the 2025 Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program, Commission staff recommends programming eight projects with the available program capacity of $90.7 million, as reflected in Attachment A. The total cost of all recommended projects is $141.9 million.

This is the second funding cycle for the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program. While the 2023 Program was funded through a combination of one-time state funds and federal formula funds from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program, the 2025 Program is funded only through PROTECT.

These recommendations invest in adaptation projects that allow the state’s transportation system to adapt to current and future climate challenges that threaten existing transportation infrastructure assets, which imperil the ability of communities to withstand, evacuate, and recover from extreme weather events and increase maintenance or reconstruction costs. The investments made by this program include replacements of infrastructure with fire- and flood-resistant materials, upgrades to stormwater management systems, construction of emergency evacuation routes to evacuate wildfire-vulnerable communities, and resilience improvements to transit infrastructure quickly. The recommended projects improve transportation and community resiliency to natural hazards or disasters, were developed through collaboration with community members, and advance environmental justice by directly benefitting climate-vulnerable and under-resourced communities. The recommended program of projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase safety, and protect vital transportation routes and communities.

Between February 2024 and April 2024, the Commission held three public workshops to solicit stakeholder input and inform the development of the 2025 Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program Guidelines. The guidelines were developed in consultation with representatives from the California Department of Transportation, regional transportation planning agencies, local agencies, transit agencies, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, and county transportation commissions.

Additionally, between May and June 2024, the Commission provided technical assistance to prospective applicants.

The 2025 Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program Guidelines, adopted by the Commission at its meeting on June 28, 2024, describe the policy, standards, criteria, and procedures for developing, adopting, and managing the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program.

Funding for the 2025 Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program covers Fiscal Years 2026-27 and 2027-28. Project nominations were due to the Commission by Friday, August 30, 2024. The Commission received 15 project nominations totaling over $238.8 million in funding requests.

Two evaluation teams, consisting of Commission and Caltrans staff, reviewed project nominations based on the evaluation criteria identified in the Commission’s adopted 2025 Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program Guidelines. Due to the competitive nature of this program, staff evaluations were limited to documentation submitted with the nomination package, including the required performance metrics outlined in the program guidelines.

The Commission will consider these staff recommendations and program adoption at its March 20, 2025 meeting.