

Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program

“What’s New” FY 2015-16:
Strategic Partnerships &
Sustainable Communities



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Presentation Outline

Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program

Why the New Program?

Realigned Grant Program

Staff Reductions and State Priorities/Objectives

Grants Overview

Strategic Partnerships & Sustainable Communities

Who may apply? Budgets. Local Match. Grant Specific Objective. Example Project Types.

What Changed?

What *really* changed?

Local Match %. Local Match Calculation. No Resolution with Application.

Grant Minimums/Maximums. No Land Use-focused Projects.

Anticipated Schedule

Schedule for FY 2015-16 Grant Awards

Application Deadline. Preliminary Notice. Official Award Letter.

Project Start Date.

What's Next?

What's in store for the future?

Technical Assistance for grantees lacking capacity.

Website Resources

Grants Websites

What's On-line and Where?



Why the New Grant Program?

Staff Reduced and Realigned with Current State Priorities/Objectives

- Staff resources were reduced and led to the consolidation of the Grant Program under one office, instead of two.
- Several recent major efforts prompted a realignment of the Grant Program:
 - Updated Caltrans Mission: *Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability*
 - California Transportation Infrastructure Priorities Vision and Core Concepts
 - State Smart Transportation Initiative Assessment and Recommendations
 - Caltrans Program Review Major Actions
 - California Transportation Plan 2040 Vision and Goals
 - Smart Mobility 2010 Principles



Grant Program Overarching Objectives

Identified to ensure consideration of State priorities/objectives:

- Sustainability
- Preservation
- Mobility
- Safety
- Innovation
- Economy
- Health
- Equity



Strategic Partnerships

Who May Apply?

- Eligible Primary Applicants Include: Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) with a current Master Fund Transfer Agreement with Caltrans Headquarters Office of Regional & Interagency Planning
- Eligible sub-applicants include:
 - Universities & Community Colleges
 - Native American Tribal Governments
 - Cities & Counties
 - Community-Based Organizations
 - Non-Profit Organizations (501.c.3)
 - Other Public Entities



Strategic Partnerships

Budget

- The Strategic Partnerships Grants are funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA State Planning and Research, Part I). The FHWA has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds.
- Approximately \$1.5 million will be available for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 grant cycle.
- 20% Non-Federal Local Match of the Total Project Amount
- The min. grant is \$100,000 and max. grant is \$500,000.



Strategic Partnerships

Grant Specific Objective

To achieve the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives, encourage regional agencies to partner with Caltrans to identify and address statewide/interregional transportation deficiencies in the state highway system, strengthen government-to-government relationships, and result in programmed system improvements.



Strategic Partnerships

Example Project Types

- Studies that identify interregional, inter-county, and/or statewide mobility and access needs
- Corridor studies and corridor performance/preservation studies
- Studies that evaluate transportation issues involving ground access to international borders, seaports, airports, intermodal facilities, freight hubs, and recreational sites
- Studies for relinquishment of state routes
- Statewide research or modeling tools
- Transportation demand management plans
- System investment prioritization plans



Sustainable Communities

Who May Apply?

- Eligible Primary Applicants Include:
 - MPOs/RTPAs with a current Master Fund Transfer Agreement with Caltrans Headquarters Office of Regional & Interagency Planning
 - Cities & Counties
 - Transit Agencies
 - Native American Tribal Governments
- Eligible sub-applicants include those listed above, as well as:
 - Universities & Community Colleges
 - Community-Based Organizations
 - Non-Profit Organizations (501.c.3)
 - Other Public Entities



Sustainable Communities

Budget

- The Sustainable Communities Grants are funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA § 5304) and also the State Highway Account. The FTA has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds.
- Approximately \$8.3 million will be available for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 grant cycle. Funding distribution will depend on the quality and quantity of applications in each applicant pool, i.e., MPOs, RTPAs, cities and counties, transit agencies, and Native American Tribal Governments.
- 11.47% Local Match of the Total Project Amount.
- The min. grant is \$50,000 and max. grant is \$500,000.



Sustainable Communities

Grant Specific Objective

To achieve the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives, identify and address mobility deficiencies in the multimodal transportation system, encourage stakeholder collaboration, involve active public engagement, integrate Smart Mobility 2010 concepts, and ultimately result in programmed system improvements.



Sustainable Communities

Example Project Types

- Studies that advance a community's effort to reduce transportation related greenhouse gases
- Studies that assist transportation agencies in creating sustainable communities
- Community to school studies or safe routes to school plans
- Studies that advance a community's effort to address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise
- Studies that address environmental justice issues in a transportation related context
- Jobs and affordable housing proximity studies
- Context-sensitive streetscapes or town center plans
- Bike and pedestrian safety enhancement plans
- Traffic calming and safety enhancement plans



Sustainable Communities

Example Project Types

- Corridor enhancement studies
- Complete street plans
- Studies that evaluate accessibility and connectivity of the multimodal transportation network
- Health equity transportation studies
- Climate change adaptation plans for transportation facilities
- Transit plans, surveys and research
- Identification of policies, strategies, and programs to preserve transit facilities and optimize transit infrastructure
- Short range transit development plans
- Transit marketing plans
- Social service improvement studies
- Student Internships (Only for Rural Agencies)



What *really* changed?

A Comparison Between the Old and the New Grant Programs

PARTNERSHIP PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

- Grant Max. = \$300,000
- Focused on partnering with local agencies to develop plans aligning with Senate Bill 375 Sustainable Community Strategy implementation

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Grant Min. = \$100,000
Max. = \$500,000
- Focus on addressing statewide/interregional deficiencies in the state highway system
- Applicants are encouraged to include Caltrans as a partner in the study.



What *really* changed?

A Comparison Between the Old and the New Grant Programs

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANTS

- Grant Max. = \$300,000
- Local Match = 10% of grant amount (7.5% min. cash; remainder in-kind OK)
- Board Resolution required with application
- Funded some planning projects with focus on land use

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Grant Min. = \$50,000
Max. = \$500,000
- Local Match = 11.47% of Total Project Amount (i.e., grant plus local match)
- Board Resolution required upon grant award
- Planning projects must focus on transportation



What *really* changed?

A Comparison Between the Old and the New Grant Programs

TRANSIT PLANNING GRANTS

- Transit Planning for Sustainable Communities Grant Max.= \$300,000
- Transit Planning for Rural Communities Grant Max.= \$100,000
- Funded planning projects with focus on transit planning in urban and rural areas of the State.
- Student Internships were available to public transportation agencies serving a rural or small urban area with a population of 100,000 and less. Grant Max. =\$50,000

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- Grant Min. = \$50,000
Max. = \$500,000
- All transit planning projects previously eligible are still eligible under the Sustainable Communities Grants.
- Student Internships are only available to Rural Agencies (no population threshold).



Anticipated Schedule for FY 2015/16 Grants

Application Period

- September 2, 2014 – Grant Application Guide Release Date
- October 31, 2014 – COB Grant Applications Due via E-mail

Evaluation Period

- November – District Review
- December – January – Headquarters Review
- February – Management Approval of Funding Recommendations

Preliminary Notifications

- March – Send E-mail Notices to Inform Applicants of the Outcome

Official Award Letters

- April – Send Award Letters with Conditions of Grant Acceptance

Project Start Date

- July – Grantees may begin grant-funded work, pending State Budget approval.

What's in store for the future?

Technical Assistance for Grantees

- Caltrans will explore providing technical assistance to agencies that lack the capacity to administer awarded grants, such as:
 - Consultant Procurement
 - Accounting/Invoicing
 - Public Outreach
- The purpose of this technical assistance, beyond what Caltrans District Offices can provide, will be to help grantees to successfully complete projects in accordance with state and/or federal requirements.
- This service will likely be offered during the next grant cycle, Fiscal Year 2016-17.



Grants Website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.html>



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RESOURCES

- » [EJ and CBTP Tool Box](#)
- » [Environmental Justice and Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant Handbook](#)

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Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program

Announcing the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Application Guide-Call for Applications

[Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program FACT SHEET](#)

[Grant Application Guide](#)

[Grant Application](#)

Download the latest version of [Adobe Reader XI \(11.0\) ®](#) to complete the application. This version of Adobe is available free of charge.

[Scope of Work Template](#)

[Project Timeline Template](#)

[District Contacts](#)

[Grant Marketing Event Information](#)

[Grant Brochure](#)

[Grant Application Tips/Pointers](#)

The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program was created to support the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) current Mission: *Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.*

Current significant efforts were also considered during grant program development, such as:

- » California Transportation Infrastructure Priorities Vision and Core Concepts;
- » State Smart Transportation Initiative Assessment and Recommendations;
- » Caltrans Program Review Major Actions;
- » California Transportation Plan 2040 Vision and Goals;
- » Smart Mobility 2010 Principles.

Grant Program Overarching Objectives were also identified to ensure consideration of these major efforts in transportation planning, including: Sustainability, Preservation, Mobility, Safety, Innovation, Economy, Health, and Equity.

In addition, grant administration processes have been streamlined and made consistent to benefit our partners. Most notable is the earlier release date of the *Grant Application Guide*, the earlier application deadline, and an earlier grant award announcement date. With this advanced process, grant recipients can anticipate starting project activities in July 2015, pending State Budget approval.

The intent of the Grant Program remains unchanged. Although dedicated grants no longer exist for Environmental Justice, Community-Based Transportation Planning, and Transit Planning, these important areas are still eligible for funding under the new Grant Program. Caltrans still provides transportation planning grants to promote a balanced, comprehensive multimodal transportation system. However, Caltrans revised the Grant Program to reflect current goals that direct us to emphasize more transportation planning efforts that promote sustainability.

These grants may be used for a wide range of transportation planning purposes, which address local and regional transportation needs and issues. The implementation of these grants should ultimately lead to the adoption, initiation, and programming of transportation

Grants Website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/Grants/grants.html>



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- » Overall Work Program Guidance & Products
- » Regional Planning Handbook
- » Partnership Planning & Transit Planning Grants
- » Regional Transportation Planning Guidelines
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- » Senate Bill 375
- » Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE)



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Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants

Announcing the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Cycle

Caltrans is pleased to release the Grant Application Guide for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 grant cycle.

Click below for information on current and past grant cycles.

[DOTP Transportation Planning Grants - Information on current and past grant cycles.](#)

Our Final Products library is updated annually in October. Some Final Products are available in electronic format. To access the documents, please select the hyperlink on the Final Products document link below. For hard-copy documents, please contact [Priscilla Martinez Velez](#).

» [Final Products](#)

FHWA Strategic Partnerships

The Strategic Partnerships grants are funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA State Planning and Research, Part I). The FHWA has authorized Caltrans to distribute these grant funds.

Consistent with the intent of partnership planning and to achieve the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives, the Strategic Partnerships Grants fund planning projects that encourage regional agencies to partner with Caltrans to identify and address statewide/interregional transportation deficiencies in the state highway system, strengthen government-to-government relationships, and result in programmed system improvements.

Example Project Types:

- » Studies that identify interregional, inter-county, and/or statewide mobility and access needs
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Sustainable Communities

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The Sustainable Communities Grants fund transportation planning projects that achieve the Caltrans Mission and Grant Program Overarching Objectives, identify and address mobility deficiencies in the multimodal transportation system, encourage stakeholder collaboration, involve active public engagement, integrate Smart Mobility 2010 concepts, and ultimately result in programmed system improvements.

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- » Traffic calming and safety enhancement plans
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- » Climate change adaptation plans for transportation facilities
- » Transit planning surveys and research
- » Identification of policies, strategies, and programs to preserve transit facilities and optimize transit infrastructure
- » Studies that evaluate accessibility and connectivity of the multimodal transportation network

Questions?

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