

OneBayArea Grant Program

(Draft July 8, 2011)

Federal Transportation Funding and Program Policies (Attachment A)

Approximately every six years, U.S. Congress enacts a surface transportation act. The current act (SAFETEA) originally scheduled to expire on September 30, 2009 is still in effect through several legislative extensions. The funding provided to our area through this legislation includes Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

In December 2009 the Commission adopted an overall framework directing how approximately \$1.4 billion in STP and CMAQ funds were to be allocated over the following six years (2010-2015). The first three years (Cycle 1) of this period were committed to projects and programs and the overall framework provided policy direction for the second three years (Cycle 2).

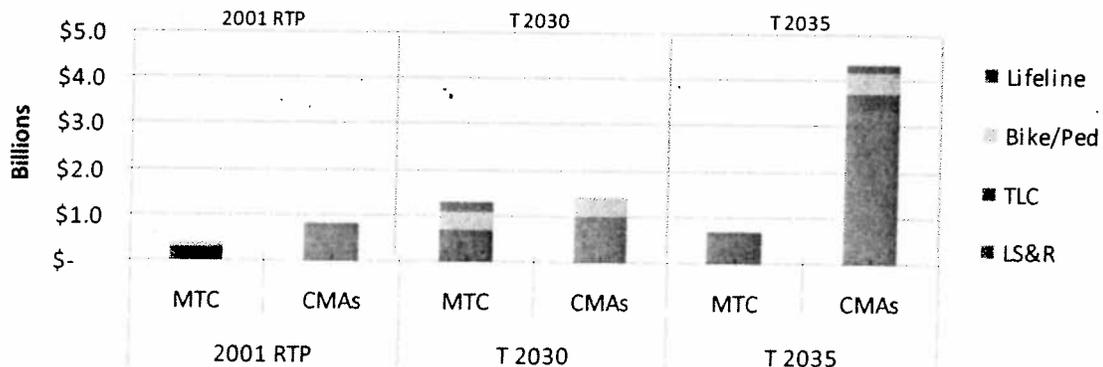
Staff proposes an alternative to the current Cycle 2 framework that better integrates the region's federal transportation program with land-use and housing policies by providing incentives for the production of housing with supportive transportation investments. Attachment A summarizes this framework and proposal for Cycle 2.

OneBayArea Grant Program

As shown in the chart below, over time the county congestion management agencies (CMAs) have been given increased responsibility for project selection for an increasing share of funding coming to the region.

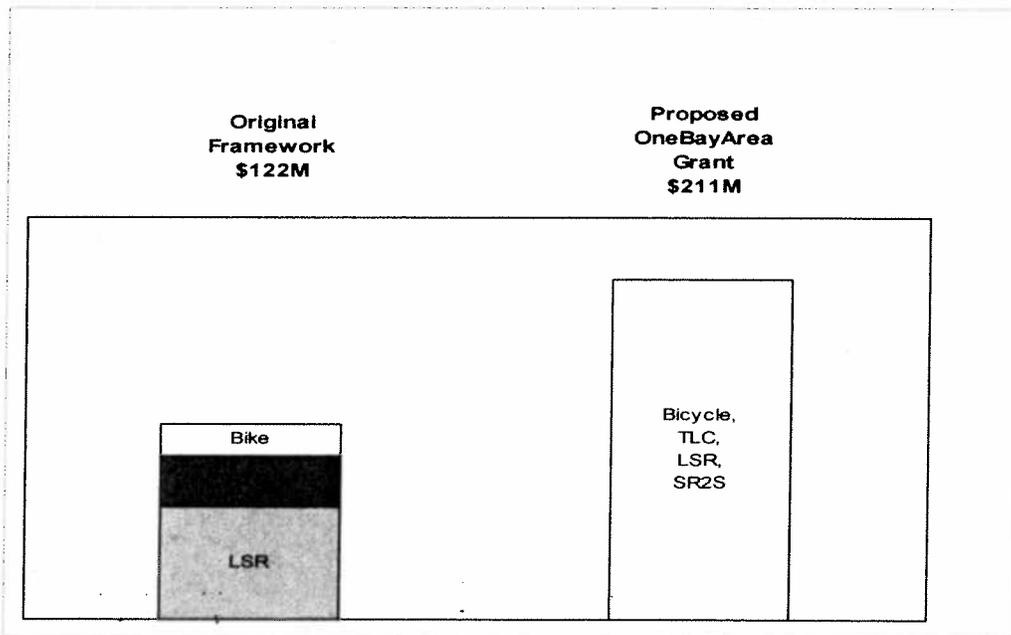
Program and Project Selection Evolves over Past Two Decades

Past Long Range Plan Discretionary Funding Assignments



For Cycle 2, staff proposes to continue this trend by shifting a larger portion of discretionary federal funding to local jurisdictions for taking on a larger share of the region's housing production. Further, additional flexibility is proposed for CMAs to address their respective transportation needs. Specifically, the proposal would:

- Shift more Funding to Locally Managed OneBayArea Grant Program: Dedicate \$211 million or roughly 40% of the Cycle 2 funding program to a new OneBayArea Grant. The funding for the OneBayArea Grant is the result of merging many of the programs in the Cycle 2 framework into a single flexible grant program and is roughly a 70% increase in the funding distributed to the counties as compared to the Cycle 2 framework adopted by the Commission. By comparison, the status quo approach for Cycle 2 would result in 22% going to County Congestion Management Agency (CMA) programs down from 30% in Cycle 1
- Add Flexibility by Eliminating Program Categories: The One Bay Grant proposal provides additional flexibility under Cycle 2 by eliminating required program categories and combining funding for TLC, Bicycle, Local Streets and Roads Rehabilitation, and Safe Routes to School. See figure illustrating this change on the following page. Project selection will be limited to a degree by the project eligibility limitations of CMAQ which will make up approximately half of the funds that each county will receive.



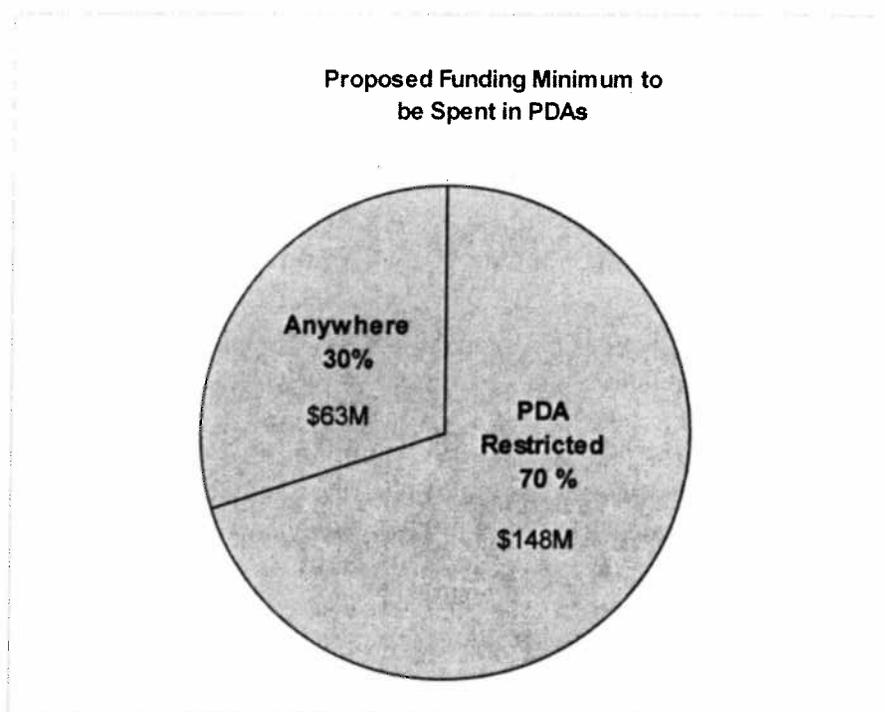
- Leverage Outside Funds to Grow Program and Meet More Objectives: Additional opportunities could be sought through other regional programs, other non-federal sources for affordable housing, and other local funds to augment program objectives. As a start, the Air District proposes \$6 million from its Regional Transportation for Clean Air (TFCA) Program. TFCA eligibility considerations will be guiding the use of these funds in the overall program.
- Continue Key Regional Programs: The remaining funding is targeted to continue regional programs such as Regional Operations, Freeway Performance Initiative, and Transit Capital Rehabilitation. Refer to Attachment A-2 for a description of these regional programs.

- Establish a Priority Conservation Area Planning Program: This new \$5 million program element will provide financial incentives for counties with populations under 500,000 for preservation of resource area and farmland, as defined in California Government Code Section 65080.01.

Distribution Formula for the OneBayArea Grant (Attachments B, C, D)

Staff proposes a distribution formula for OneBayArea Grant funding (Attachment B) that includes housing incentives to support the SCS and promote effective transportation investments that support focused development. In order to ease the transition to this new funding approach, staff is also recommending a 50% population share factor in the formula:

1. Formula to Counties: The proposed distribution formula to the counties includes three components: 50% population, 25% Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for 2007-2014, and 25% actual housing production. This approach provides incentives for both future housing commitments and actual housing production. The fund distribution will be refined using the new RHNA to be adopted by ABAG next spring along with the SCS. The new RHNA being developed, which covers years 2015-2022, places a greater emphasis on city centered growth. As a result, refinements are likely to result in modest revisions to the funding distribution consistent with these revised development patterns. The proposed OneBayArea Grant formula also uses actual housing data from 1999-2006, and has been capped such that each jurisdiction receives credit for housing up to its RHNA allocation. Subsequent funding cycles would rely on housing production from ABAG's next housing report to be published in 2013.
2. Priority Development Area (PDA) Minimum: Require that at least 70% of funding be spent on projects in Priority Development Areas (planned, potential and growth opportunity areas). Counties, at their discretion, can elect to use up to 5% of the PDA restricted funds for the development of priority conservation area (PCA) plans. Growth opportunity areas are tentatively considered as PDAs until ABAG completes final PDA designations next fall. See Attachment C for PDA program minimums for each county and Attachment D for a map and a list of the PDAs.



The OneBayArea Grant supports Priority Development Areas while providing flexibility to fund transportation needs in other areas.

Performance and Accountability

As noted at the outset, housing allocation according to RHNA and housing production will be the primary metric for distributing the OneBayArea Grant funding. In addition, staff recommends the following performance and accountability requirements.

1. Supportive Local Transportation and Land-Use Policies: Staff recommends that local agencies be required to have at least two of the following four policies adopted in order to be eligible for grant funds:
 - a) Parking/pricing policies (e.g. cash out, peak pricing, on-street/off street pricing differentials, eliminate parking minimums, unbundled parking) and adopted city and/or countywide employer trip reduction ordinances
 - b) Adopted Community Risk Reduction Plans (CRRP) per CEQA guidelines
 - c) Have affordable housing policies in place or policies that ensure that new development projects do not displace low income housing
 - d) Adopted bicycle/pedestrian plan and complete streets policy in general plans pursuant to Complete Streets Act of 2008

2. Approved Housing Element: Also, a HCD-approved housing element consistent with RHNA/SB375 law is a proposed condition for any jurisdiction receiving Cycle 2 OneBayArea grants. This may be met as follows: 1) adoption of a housing element that meets the current RHNA before the new RHNA is adopted, or 2) the adoption of a housing element that meets the new RHNA after its approval early in 2012. Jurisdictions have 18 months after the adoption of the SCS to meet the new RHNA; therefore, compliance is expected and required by September 2014. Any jurisdiction failing to meet either one of these deadlines will not be allowed to receive grant funding. Lastly any

jurisdiction without adopted housing elements addressing the new RHNA by September 2014 will be ineligible to receive any funding after Cycle 2 until they have adopted a housing element.

Implementation Issues

Below are issues to be addressed as we further develop the OneBayArea Grant concept:

1. Federal Authorization Uncertainty: We will need to closely monitor development of the new federal surface transportation authorization. New federal programs, their eligibility rules, and how money is distributed could potentially impact the implementation of the OneBayArea Grant Program as proposed.
2. Revenue Estimates: Staff assumes a steady but modest nominal revenue growth rate of 4% annually. Given the mood of Congress to downsize federal programs, these estimates are potentially overly optimistic if there are significant reductions in STP / CMAQ apportionments over the Cycle 2 time period. Staff recommends continuing to move forward with the conservative revenue assumptions and make adjustments later if needed.

Attachments

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