



BCAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Item #8 Information

September 24, 2020

2021 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FTIP) DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: Ivan Garcia, Transportation Programming Specialist

ISSUE: As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Butte County, BCAG is responsible for biennially preparing and adopting the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The 2021 FTIP is required to be adopted and submitted to Caltrans by March 1, 2021.

DISCUSSION: The purpose of the FTIP is to identify all transportation-related projects that require federal funding or other approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The 2021 FTIP will cover the next four fiscal years (FFY 20/21, 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24). The FTIP also identifies all non-federal, regionally significant projects for information and air quality emissions modeling purposes. The FTIP indicates the area's short-term plan for use of federal dollars and other resources for the maintenance, operation, and improvement of the transportation system and the achievement of federal air quality standards over the next four federal fiscal years.

Existing projects that are not obligated in the current 2019 FTIP will likely carry forward into the 2021 FTIP as well as the projects recently adopted in the 2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The typical funding programs associated with the FTIP include the STIP, State Highways Operations and Protection Program (Caltrans SHOPP), Highway Bridge Program (Local Bridge Program), Federal Transit Administration Programs (Transit), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), Highway Improvement Program (HIP) and Active Transportation Program (ATP).

As a result of COVID-19, the submittal and adoption deadlines have been postponed until March 2021. A draft 2021 FTIP document including an Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Determination will now be presented at the January 2021 Transportation Advisory Committee and BCAG Board meetings with adoption by the Board on February 25, 2021.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality – Call for Projects

As part of the development of the new FTIP, staff is initiating a “call for projects” to accept new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program for funding consideration. The purpose of the CMAQ program is to fund projects which reduce the region’s non-attainment pollutants to address transportation air quality. Staff

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encourages all applicants to consider leveraging local or other grant funds with CMAQ. In addition, utilizing CMAQ for construction simplifies the project delivery process through Caltrans.

Draft CMAQ Programming Schedule:

- Applications Due: November 5, 2020
- BCAG TAC Meeting: November 5, 2020
- Draft Recommendations to BCAG TAC: December 3, 2020
- Draft Recommendations to BCAG Board: December 10, 2020 and or January 28, 2021
- New projects incorporated into 2021 FTIP Process with adoption on February 25, 2021

Caltrans has provided BCAG with new funding estimates to be used in the 2021 FTIP. These estimates do not account for existing projects already programmed. The programming levels for BCAG are:

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|-----------------|---|
| 2020/21: | \$1,940,418 (Approximately \$1,540,000 is currently programmed) |
| 2021/22: | \$1,939,816 |
| 2022/23: | \$1,939,202 |
| <u>2023/24:</u> | <u>\$1,938,575</u> |
| Total: | \$7,758,011 |

Based on the apportionments being made available and accounting for existing projects, the amount available for new projects is approximately \$6.2 million. Federal guidance on the CMAQ program has been posted at:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/.

Updated project application and guidance will be presented to the BCAG Transportation Advisory Committee and posted on BCAG's website at www.bcag.org.

Highway Improvement Program – Call for Projects

Staff is also initiating a “call for projects” for the Highway Improvement Program (HIP). This process will follow the same process and schedule as the CMAQ. As part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act legislation authorized by Congress, the HIP program was created to fund projects to address needs on the federal-aid system.

Eligible work for the HIP program is defined in Title 23 USC 133(B)(1)(A); e.g. construction of highways (federal-aid system roads), bridges and tunnels. Typical activities include environmental, design, right-of-way and construction. No projects on roads classified as a local road or rural minor collector unless:

- On a federal-aid highway system on January 1, 1991
- For bridges (except new bridge at new location)
- Approved by the secretary

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It is not known if this program will continue as part of the reauthorization of the FAST Act. The HIP program authorized three years of funding for the following fiscal years:

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 2017/18: | \$570,696 |
| 2018/19: | \$804,070 |
| <u>2019/20:</u> | <u>\$233,443</u> |
| Total: | \$1,608,209 |

Rural Minor Collectors are not HIP eligible and are differentiated from Urban Minor Collectors (HIP eligible) using the latest Census Maps. In addition, the project would be required to be included in the RTP/SCS and programmed in the FTIP. Additional guidance information has been posted by Caltrans at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/highway-infrastructure-program>.

Staff will work the CMAQ and HIP programs into the development of the 2021 FTIP through its advisory committees and present the draft project recommendations at the December 10, 2020 BCAG Board meeting. Development of the FTIP will be completed in accordance with BCAG's adopted Public Participation Plan.

Attached for the Board's awareness is an updated 2021 FTIP Schedule.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

Key staff: Jon Clark, Executive Director
Ivan Garcia, Transportation Programming Specialist
Brian Lasagna, Regional Analyst

**Attachment A
2021 FTIP Development Schedule**

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|---|--------------------------|
| Draft 2021 FTIP Project Listing presented to TAC | October 1, 2020 |
| Due date for comments on the Draft listing by project sponsors | October 18, 2020 |
| Preliminary 2021 FTIP to BCAG TAC | November 5, 2020 |
| Final Draft to BCAG TAC | December 3, 2020 |
| Draft 2021 FTIP to BCAG Board | December 10, 2020 |
| Public Review Period | January 25, 2021 |
| Final Draft 2021 FTIP to BCAG Board – Public Hearing | January 28, 2021 |
| Final BCAG TAC Review | February 4, 2021 |
| 30 Day Review Period Concludes | February 23, 2021 |
| BCAG Board Approval | February 25, 2021 |
| BCAG Submittal of Final Approved FTIP to Caltrans | March 1, 2021 |
| Approval of Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) by Caltrans and submittal to FHWA\FTA for their approval | April 1, 2021 |
| FSTIP Federal Approval | April 16, 2021 |