

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program Funding Cycle

MEETING DATE: September 6, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 7

STAFF CONTACT: Brittany Odermann

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update regarding the fund estimate, funding cycle schedule, and process for soliciting projects and funding requests.

DISCUSSION:

Our region would normally have received a Fund Estimate for the 2008 STIP cycle by August of this year; however the estimate is delayed due to the recent state budget impasse. CTC staff is scheduled to release a draft Fund Estimate for the 2008 STIP at a special workshop on September 5th in Sacramento. The Fund Estimate will identify new funding that is expected to be available for programming for the next 5-year STIP period, FY 2008-09 to FY 2012-13. The Fund Estimate specifies the amount of Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funding that each region may be permitted to program. Regional STIP Transportation Enhancement (TE) shares for each county will also be included in the Fund Estimate. We expect that the new funding capacity for RIP and TE will be in the two outer years, FYs 11/12 and 12/13. Programming capacity for each county for the five-year period is based on a statewide estimate of revenues prepared by Caltrans which is adopted by the CTC. Given the recent state budget issues for FY 2007-08, this could prove to be a difficult task for Caltrans staff and we may possibly receive more than one fund estimate based on various revenue scenarios, similar to the 2006 STIP development process.

SBCAG is required to develop and submit a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) as part of the STIP process. The RTIP identifies projects selected by SBCAG that are to be funded with our RIP funds for the same 5-year period. The RTIP is submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for approval and incorporation into the new STIP. It is anticipated that SBCAG will be required to adopt its 2008 RTIP and submit it to the state no later than February 1, 2008. The CTC is currently scheduled to adopt the final 2008 STIP at the end of May 2008. The attached schedule outlines how the RTIP development process will unfold if this schedule is affirmed by the CTC on September 5.

During the programming process, SBCAG staff will recommend addressing funding shortfalls on currently programmed projects as a primary priority for the 2008 STIP cycle. Staff is aware of several RIP projects that have shortfalls and on off-system projects will contact local agencies to discuss the amount of the shortfall, the cause, and funding options. It is anticipated that the funding needs for these currently programmed RIP projects will exhaust all of the new RIP funding capacity.

Member Agencies

Buellton ■ Carpinteria ■ Goleta ■ Guadalupe ■ Lompoc ■ Santa Barbara ■ Santa Maria ■ Solvang ■ Santa Barbara County

There are also currently programmed STIP-TE projects that may have shortfalls. SBCAG staff will recommend that TE funding be programmed to current TE projects with funding shortfalls as a top priority and then to other new, eligible projects. SBCAG staff is asking local agencies to submit their shortfalls estimates for current STIP-TE projects and propose new projects to determine countywide funding need for this STIP cycle. This informal 'sneak preview' will help to decide whether a formal call for STIP-TE projects is necessary. SBCAG requests staff level proposals for additional funding for programmed projects, and new projects, be submitted to SBCAG no later than **Monday, September 24th**. The proposal should be submitted via e-mail to Brittany Odermann, bodermann@sbcag.org.

New STIP-TE project proposals should include the following information:

- brief description of project;
- schedule;
- project cost; and
- Non-STIP-TE funding contributions to the project

For currently programmed STIP-TE projects, agencies should notify SBCAG of:

- Funding shortfalls, the cause of the shortfall, and STIP-TE and other funding proposed to close the shortfall
- proposed reallocations of funding between components; or
- schedule revisions or amendments needed

Local agency Board/Council approval is not necessary for this initial inquiry. We are simply trying to determine the STIP-TE funding needs for the 2008 STIP cycle and whether a formal call for projects is necessary.

2008 RTIP Development Schedule

Here is a preliminary schedule that SBCAG staff intends to follow for the 2008 STIP cycle.

September 6, 2006	Discuss Fund Estimate w\TTAC; initiate preview of STIP-TE needs
September 24, 2007	Deadline to submit STIP-TE funding needs and project proposals to SBCAG
October 4, 2007	At TTAC meeting, discuss outcome of preview and decide if call for projects is necessary for STIP-TE programming.
October, November 2007	SBCAG develops draft 2008 RTIP
November 1, 2007	At TTAC, discuss SBCAG draft of recommended programming to current STIP projects (no STIP-TE recommendations)
December 6, 2007	Receive 2008 Draft RTIP including STIP-TE recommendations
January 3, 2008	Approve 2008 RTIP
January 17, 2008	SBCAG Board approval
February 1, 2008	Deadline to submit RTIP to CTC
March 18, 2008	CTC South 2008 STIP hearing
May 28-29, 2008	CTC 2008 STIP adoption

*If a call for projects is necessary, a specific schedule will be developed and the call for projects will occur in October and November 2007.

Questions about the RTIP development process should be directed to Brittany Odermann at 961-8915 or bodermann@sbcag.org.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an update only. Staff will attend a STIP Fund Estimate workshop on September 5, 2007 and provide an oral report on the Fund Estimate, updated funding cycle schedule and development process for SBCAG's RTIP at the September 6th TTAC meeting.