



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Community Development and Infrastructure

Subject: Authorize Community Development and Infrastructure to Submit Grant Funding Applications

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Authorize Community Development and Infrastructure to submit applications to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) for 2025 Consolidated Regional Transportation Grants Program funds totaling up to \$10 million for road related projects

Recommended Action

Authorize Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) to submit applications to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission for 2025 Consolidated Regional Transportation Grants Program funds totaling up to \$10 million for road related projects.

Executive Summary

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) has informed CDI that it will issue a call for projects on June 30, 2025, for approximately \$10 million from various grant sources consolidated into the 2025 Consolidated Regional Transportation Grants Program. Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) is requesting authorization to submit grant applications for this funding for road-related projects.

Discussion

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) has informed CDI that it will issue a call for projects on June 30, 2025, for approximately \$10 million from various grant sources consolidated into the 2025 Consolidated Regional Transportation Grants Program. Road projects are eligible to compete for this funding. Grant applications are due to SCCRTC on September 15th, 2025 by 3pm. The action under consideration is to approve a list of projects for which grant applications may be submitted by Community Development and Infrastructure on behalf of the County.

In developing recommendations for the project application submittals to the SCCRTC for these funds, Community Development and Infrastructure is required to follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines for eligible roadway types (typically limited to major collectors and arterials in the County's road network). Community Development and Infrastructure first determined district funding allocations based on the percentage of maintained mileage within each Supervisorial District, then worked with each District Supervisor to identify funding priorities in their district that are anticipated to score well under the criteria set forth in the call for projects.

Below is a summary of criteria that have regularly been used by the RTC to evaluate project benefits and transportation decisions. These criteria support the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), state, and/or federal goals and policies.

1. Access for All: Expand affordable and convenient multi-modal travel options and choices, especially to and within key destinations, to allow people to access their regular needs.

2. Safety and Health: Reduce transportation related fatalities and serious injuries (crashes) and enhance healthy, safe transportation options.
3. System Preservation / Infrastructure: Maintain and improve the condition of transportation assets cost effectively and responsive to the needs of all transportation system users.
4. System Performance: Improve efficiency and enhance performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Includes improving goods movement, supporting economic development, improving travel times, and reducing congestion.
5. Climate Change and Resiliency: Reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and establish a climate-resilient transportation system that anticipates, adapts to, and mitigates the impacts of climate change.
6. Equity: Ensure that plans, investments, policies, and transportation decisions will reduce disparities for historically and systemically marginalized, underserved, and excluded populations.

A summary table showing proposed project locations that CDI believes fits the grant criteria and funding recommendations is attached for the Board's consideration. Upon approval by the Board, grant applications will be developed and submitted to the SCCRTC. Community Development and Infrastructure worked with each Supervisorial office to determine current regional priorities. The projects shown in the summary table represent targeting the maximum anticipated grant amount, in the event that the actual grant funds available are significantly less than the amount assumed, Community Development & Infrastructure may reduce the amount and scope of grant requests, such reductions being coordinated with each district supervisor for work in their district. Any grant funding obtained will require an 11.47 percent local funding match in addition to department overhead estimated at 9 percent.

Financial Impact

Approximately \$10 Million in grant funding is anticipated to be available in this grant cycle. Grant funding requires an 11.47 percent local funding match in addition to department overhead estimated at 9 percent. Local matching funds and department overhead costs are typically funded by transportation discretionary revenues such as SB1. Any costs beyond the initial project budget would also be covered by local County matching funds.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - County Facilities & Infrastructure
Operational Plan - Reliable Transportation
Climate Action - Transportation

Submitted By:

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Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.