



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: March 26, 2019 
SUBJECT: YR 2020-2023 Regional Grant Program - Call for Projects

AT A GLANCE – INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the available regional federal grant program funds and propose that RTC Board of Directors issue a 2020-2023 call for STBG Urban and CMAQ projects.

BACKGROUND

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Clark County region, RTC is responsible for selecting and programming projects for the regional share of the Federal Highway program. RTC also has responsibility for ensuring the obligation of these federal funds. The federal programs managed by RTC include the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Transportation Alternatives (TA).

The need for regional transportation investment exceeds the available revenue; existing regulations compel MPOs to implement a competitive process for federal fund awards. Therefore, RTC has implemented a competitive grant selection process to implement projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.

The purpose of this action is to outline the available regional federal grant program funds and propose that the RTC Board of Directors release a 2020-2023 call for STBG Urban and CMAQ projects (*call for projects*). Furthermore, additional funding has become available for the ongoing 2019 call for projects within the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program, and the proposed action will supplement the current TA project solicitation with an increased funding pool.

AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS

Over the last several months RTC has received our 2018 and 2019 allocation totals for federal STBG, CMAQ, and TA programs. The new figure shows a significant increase in federal dollars allocated to the region (almost \$1.1 million per year). Factored over six years (2018-2023), an additional \$6.5 million is estimated as available for grant distribution through RTC’s recurring process. The proposed call for projects will cover years 2020 through 2023.

Transportation Alternatives: Factoring in the higher recurring allocation and the return of the Chelatchie Prairie Rails with Trails funds, staff is proposing that the existing 2019

Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects grant funding pool be increased by approximately \$500,000 to \$2,355,000. Applications for this program are due May 1st.

The following table lists available dollars by funding program.

Program	Amount
STBG-Urban	\$8-10 million*
CMAQ	\$4-5 million*
TA	\$2.35 million
2019 Call Total	\$14-17 million

**Variable based on obligation strategy*

CALL FOR STBG AND CMAQ PROJECTS

The grant process is reviewed annually by staff from member agencies. At the March Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting, RTAC members recommended that a call for STBG and CMAQ projects be issued.

RTC staff is proposing to issue a call for urban Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation\Air Quality (CMAQ) projects on April 5, 2019. The call will be for years 2020-2023 allocation of funds (\$10 million STBG and \$4.7 million CMAQ). Project applications will be due to RTC on Friday, July 12, 2019.

Once project applications are submitted, projects will be evaluated by adopted regional selection criteria and then selected by the RTC Board to receive grant funding. The call for projects will be conducted consistent with the policies and procedures outlined in the adopted Transportation Programming Guidebook, with the proposed one time exception on funding increase for existing projects that can obligate by August 2020.

PROPOSED ACTION

Staff recommends that the RTC Board of Directors authorize the release of a call for STBG and CMAQ project applications and to increase the funding pool for the ongoing call for TA projects at the program funding amounts stated in this report.