



MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Member Agencies within Clark County
FROM: Dale Robins
DATE: April 7, 2020
SUBJECT: CY 2023-2024 Regional Grant Program Call For Projects

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue a call for urban and rural Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBG), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects, utilizing estimated 2023-2024 funds. The call for projects will be conducted consistent with the process outlined in the Transportation Programming Guidebook, which is available along with other project development materials from the RTC website at <https://rtc.wa.gov/programs/tip>.

The goal is to continue to build upon the successful regional project development process that has been utilized in previous years. The three step project development process includes:

- 1) Projects will be reviewed for consistency with local and regional policies;
- 2) Projects will be evaluated and ranked based on the approved selection criteria; and
- 3) Projects will be selected and programmed based on their ranking.

Projects selected through the regional project selection process must be drawn either directly from specific project recommendations made in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or developed from a more general series of RTP recommendations including safety, bicycle, pedestrian, or other recommendations. Projects that add single-occupant capacity must be listed in the RTP.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) invites public agencies in the Clark County region to submit applications for estimated 2023-2024 federal urban and rural Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

The STBG-Urban, STBG-Rural, and CMAQ funds are allocated to the Clark County MPO area and programmed by the RTC Board of Directors. The STBG funds can be used for a wide range of transportation purposes. The CMAQ funds can be used for transportation projects that will contribute to meeting the attainment of national air quality standards within the Clark County Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area (basically the Vancouver, Camas, and Washougal urban areas).

These federal funds require a minimum 13.5% local match. In order to receive federal funds, the applicant must have either a “Certification Acceptance” (CA) status or have a CA agency agree to manage their project. Also, projects are required to meet regional screening criteria. **Project applications are due to RTC on Friday, July 17, 2020.** A project qualification review will be completed for draft applications submitted by Friday, July 10, 2020.

STBG-Rural funds are allocated for projects in rural portions of Clark County. With the 2020 U.S. Census, new boundaries will be released approximately 3 years after the Census year (around 2023). Those seeking STBG-Rural funds need to understand that if a project is selected for STBG-Rural funding, and becomes located within the urban area, all unobligated funds will be removed from that project.

The RTC’s process does allow for funds to be obligated up to one year in advance of the year a project is programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). RTC staff estimates the following availability of federal funds for programming in the TIP:

Year	STBG-Urban	STBG-Rural	CMAQ	Totals
2023	\$1,444,000	\$1,045,000	\$0	\$2,489,000
2024	\$6,164,000	\$450,000	\$2,176,000	\$8,790,000
Totals	\$7,608,000	\$1,495,000	\$2,176,000	\$11,279,000

REGIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA

All applications must meet the following project screening criteria:

- Project is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Local Comprehensive Plans, and Congestion Management Process. *(Projects that add single-occupant capacity must be listed in the RTP).*
- Road projects must be federally classified as an urban collector/rural major collector or above.
- Projects competing for STBG and/or CMAQ funds must be a capital improvement-type project. STBG and CMAQ funds are not to be used for maintenance and preservation.
- STBG and CMAQ funds are limited to \$5 million per project. The cap can be reached at \$5 million per mile (PE - \$0.75 M, RW- \$1.25 M, and remaining for CN), \$5 Million for shorter high cost projects, \$1.5 million per intersection, and \$3 million for high volume intersections (20,000 entering vehicles).
- Submitted projects should be ready to proceed and have a reasonable timeline for implementation.
- Projects that open the road for utilities must include at least conduit.
- All operational improvement projects must follow the Regional Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan guidance.

2020 REGIONAL GRANT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 7	Call for Projects
Friday, July 10	Project Qualification Review
Friday, July 17	Project Applications Due to RTC
Saturday, August 15	Local Agencies enter projects in STIP
Friday, August 21	RTAC Recommendation on Prioritization
Friday, September 18	RTAC Selection Recommendation
Tuesday, October 6	RTC Board Selection and Adoption of TIP