



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** January 9, 2014  
**Contact:** John Standiford  
Deputy Executive Director  
(951) 787-7969

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **RCTC Allocates \$152 Million for Local Projects**

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) awarded more than \$152 million to local jurisdictions for a wide variety of street improvements, expanded freeway interchanges, and active transportation improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians. Funding for the projects comes from the voter-approved Measure A sales tax program, state gas tax revenue, and two federal funding sources.

A total of 33 projects will receive funding during the next two years and 18 local jurisdictions including local cities, the county of Riverside, and the Riverside Transit Agency will move forward with the various projects. Among the higher profile projects are the widening of Clinton Keith Avenue in Murrieta, the construction of a truck climbing land in the Banning Pass on State Route 60, widening Magnolia Street in Riverside, widening Highway 111 in Indio, and constructing a new freeway interchange at the I-215/Newport Road in Menifee.

“This truly shows the value of the Measure A program,” said RCTC Chair Marion Ashley, a County Supervisor. Every part of the county is receiving funding that will improve mobility and create needed jobs.”

**-MORE-**

“More importantly, having a local funding source enables us to stretch federal transportation dollars to build more projects,” Ashley added.

In addition to yesterday’s funding allocation, RCTC previously awarded \$10 million in state transportation funding for the I-15/French Valley Parkway in Temecula last October and another \$21 million in Measure A funds for the Foothill Parkway in Corona last month.

“If projects are ready, and we have the funding, we’re going to get them built as quickly as possible,” Ashley said.

The funding decision comes after local jurisdictions were invited to apply for funding in September. A total of 55 projects were submitted requesting a total of \$282 million in funding. The Technical Advisory Committee consisting of public works professionals from jurisdictions around the county evaluated the proposals and made the comprehensive recommendations for funding to the Commission. The Commission ratified the recommendations with a unanimous vote.

In order to compete better for this funding call, much of the funding will be matched by additional local dollars meaning that an additional \$200 million will be added to the \$152 million allocated by the Commission.

More local funding is also on the way for projects in the Coachella Valley. In addition to the funding allocated by RCTC for notable projects such as the I-10/Jefferson Street Interchange in Indio/La Quinta, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) will allocate revenue from the federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program for projects in the Salton Sea Air Basin.

A staff report listing the various projects is attached to this news release.

###

***Attachment: Staff report on funding allocations. . .***

## ***RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION***

<b>DATE:</b>	January 8, 2014
<b>TO:</b>	Riverside County Transportation Commission
<b>FROM:</b>	Shirley Medina, Planning and Programming Director
<b>THROUGH:</b>	Anne Mayer, Executive Director
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Multi-funding Call for Projects Funding Recommendations

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for the Commission to:

- 1) Approve the funding recommendations included in Table 1 for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and Table 2 for Surface Transportation Program (STP) and 2009 Western Riverside County Measure A Regional Arterial (MARA) funds;
- 2) Direct staff to prepare and execute Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the project sponsors to outline the project schedule and local funding commitments;
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the MOUs with the project sponsors, pursuant to legal counsel review; and
- 4) Program the projects in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At its June 2013 meeting, the Commission approved the release of the 2013 Multi-Funding Call for Projects (Call for Projects) for approximately \$116 million of federal CMAQ and STP funding and \$35 million of MARA funds. Funding for the Call for Projects included FFYs 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 of federal STP and CMAQ apportionments estimated by Caltrans. MARA funding availability included the balance to date in addition to FYs 2013/14 and 2014/15 revenue estimates. The intention of this Call for Projects is to fund construction activities. However, up to five percent of funding was considered for projects seeking Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) only funding.

The project submittal deadline was September 23, 2013. Projects were evaluated by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) primarily consisting of Public Works Directors. Two separate evaluation meetings were scheduled with the first meeting taking place on November 6, 2013 to evaluate four of the seven criteria: Regional significance, project readiness, local match, and safety. The second meeting on December 9, 2013

was held to include the quantitative scores for the air quality analyses, cost-benefit, and Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainability Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Greenhouse Gases benefits performed by the Commission’s air quality consultant in accordance with adopted emissions and cost-benefit models used by the California Air Resources Board and Caltrans.

A total of 55 projects requesting a total of \$282 million were received for the Multi-funding Call for Projects. Staff identified the appropriate fund source for the projects separating capacity enhancement projects for STP and MARA funds and air quality mitigation and active transportation projects (e.g. bicycle and pedestrian facilities) for CMAQ funding. Projects identified for STP funding were those that were already federalized (e.g. had an approved National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) environmental document) or can proceed through the federal process. Staff recognized the probability of some projects having environmental documents cleared through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but not NEPA. Therefore, CEQA-only cleared projects located on the regional arterial system in western Riverside County were considered for MARA funds.

**Project Recommendations:**

***CMAQ Recommendation***

All projects that were non-capacity enhancing and demonstrated air quality benefits are recommended for CMAQ funding along with the Commission’s State Route SR-60 Truck Climbing Lane project. The TAC and staff recommend the following projects for CMAQ funding:

**Table 1**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>CMAQ</b>
Calimesa	I-10/Cherry Valley IC (PA&ED)	\$ 443,000
Eastvale	Hamner Signal Synchronization	216,775
Moreno Valley	Transportation Mgmt Center Ph 1B	2,031,700
Moreno Valley	Dynamic Traveler Alert Msg Boards	340,500
Moreno Valley	Aqueduct Trail (PA&ED)	340,000
Riverside	Magnolia Signal Interconnect	1,387,500
Riverside	Downtown Metrolink Crossing (PA&ED)	637,500
Riverside	Santa Ana River Trail Path	2,376,000
Riverside	Santa Ana River Bicycle Trail	141,450
Riverside	Bicycle Share Program	240,000
Riverside	Bruce St Sidewalk improvements	195,000
Riverside County	Salt Creek Parkway	5,090,000
RCTC	SR-60 Truck Climbing Lane	26,800,000
RTA	RapidLink Service– University/Magnolia	9,211,800
RTA	Systemwide ITS	4,125,000
Temecula	Park-n-Ride Facility	1,300,750
Wildomar	Bike Paths – Grand/Clinton Keith	613,800

Wildomar	Bike Paths–Grand (Corydon–Brown MS)	746,640
	<b>Total Recommended Programming:</b>	<b>\$ 56,237,415</b>
	<b>Total Available CMAQ:</b>	<b>\$ 58,309,953</b>
	<b>Programming Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 2,072,538</b>

The November 1, 2013 Caltrans CMAQ estimates were slightly decreased from approximately \$61 million to \$58 million, yet are sufficient to fully fund the CMAQ projects recommended for programming. Project eligibility will further be reviewed by the Southern California Association of Governments upon inclusion of these projects in the FTIP. Further review will be done by Caltrans at the time of obligation.

### ***STP/MARA Recommendation***

The following projects are listed in order of priority ranking and are recommended by the TAC and staff for STP and MARA funding:

**Table 2**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>STP</b>	<b>MARA</b>
Indio/La Quinta	I-10/Jefferson Interchange (IC)	\$ 14,499,925	
San Jacinto*	Ramona Expressway Widening		\$ 2,675,000
Riv Co/Murrieta*	Clinton Keith Widening		16,500,000
Riv Co/Menifee	I-215/Newport IC	14,625,000	
Perris*	I-215/Nuevo IC Ramp Improvements		1,600,000
Beaumont	SR-60/Potrero IC Phase 1 Improvements	6,523,154	
Indio	Highway 111 Widening	4,680,000	
Riverside	Magnolia Widening	2,620,000	
Temecula	I-15/SR-79 South Interchange	12,976,100	
	<b>STP/MARA Construction Subtotal :</b>	<b>55,924,179</b>	<b>20,775,000</b>
Riverside County	Cajalco Widening (PA&ED only)	3,000,000	
Moreno Valley	SR-60/Theodore IC (PA&ED only)(Tier 2)	964,000	
Riverside	SR-91/Adams IC (PA&ED only) (Tier 2)	935,000	
	<b>Subtotal STP PA&amp;ED only:</b>	<b>4,899,000</b>	
Coachella	Avenue 48 Widening (Tier 2)	2,278,250	
Jurupa Valley*	Limonite Widening (Tier 2)		1,882,000
Moreno Valley*	Cactus Widening/Signal Synch (Tier 2)		1,527,500
	<b>Subtotal STP/MARA Tier 2:</b>	<b>2,278,250</b>	<b>3,409,500</b>
	<b>Total Recommended Programming:</b>	<b>\$ 63,101,429</b>	<b>\$ 24,184,500</b>
	<b>Total Available STP/MARA:</b>	<b>\$ 58,992,691</b>	<b>\$ 16,000,000</b>
	<b>Tier 2/Over programming:</b>	<b>\$ (4,108,738)</b>	<b>\$ ( 8,184,500)</b>
*CEQA Only/Recommended for MARA funding			

Federal funding apportionments were recently updated by Caltrans on November 1, 2013. The updated apportionments resulted in an increase in STP funding from approximately \$52 million to \$59 million. Staff is recommending over programming by approximately \$4 million to program projects that have relatively minor costs and will

address safety issues. Two projects requesting under \$1 million in PA&ED funding are also recommended for funding. It is likely that the \$4 million in over programming may come from potential project savings, increased STP apportionment/MARA revenue levels, or from FY 15/16 apportionment and revenues.

MARA revenue projections were recently updated and the amount of available funds increased from \$14 million to \$16 million. In order to fully fund the projects recommended for MARA funding, staff is recommending over programming of approximately \$8 million. The \$8 million may come from cost savings and/or increased revenues. Further, the Clinton Keith Widening project will be budgeted over two FYs (FY 2014/15 and 2015/16) to accommodate cash flow of the MARA funds.

***Prior Project Recommendations***

Prior project recommendations for projects received for the Call for Projects included the following:

- October 9, 2013 – Commission approved programming \$10 million for the I-15/French Valley Parkway Interchange project with 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program funds.
- December 11, 2013 – Commission approved \$21 million of MARA funds for the city of Corona’s Foothill Parkway extension project so that the city could move forward with the award of this project.

***Projects Not Evaluated***

Six projects submitted for the Call for Projects were not evaluated due to the following:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Comment</b>
County of Riverside	Gernert/Poarch Road Paving	Paving project ineligible for funding
Eastvale	Hamner Avenue Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation projects ineligible for Call for Project
Palm Springs	I-10/Indian Canyon Drive Desert Landscaping	Landscaping project ineligible for funding
Palm Springs	Construct Class II Bike Lanes, various streets	City will apply for CVAG’s CMAQ Call for Projects
Palm Springs	Construction of a second left turn lane on northbound Gene Autry Trail to Vista Chino	City will apply for CVAG’s CMAQ Call for Projects
Palm Springs	Construct Sidewalks, Cerritos Drive	City will apply for CVAG’s CMAG Call for Projects

## **NEXT STEPS**

- FTIP –  
Upon Commission approval staff will program the CMAQ and STP-funded projects in the FTIP. The timing for the inclusion of projects in the FTIP will vary based on the amendment type and the rules for amending projects in the FTIP. It is anticipated that all projects will be in an approved FTIP by April 2014. Staff will notify the local agencies of the amendment approval. Federal funds must be obligated through the Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures, and agencies are required to adhere to the federal requirements. All federally-funded projects must receive a Notice to Proceed from Caltrans before work can begin.
- MOUs –  
MOUs will be required to outline the project schedules, funding plan, and local agency match commitment. In addition, should projects experience savings, the project sponsor is to notify Commission staff so that savings are applied to the appropriate project fund sources or in a proportional manner.
- Monitoring –  
Project sponsors are encouraged to obligate funding within three years of FTIP inclusion or based on the program year. Staff will send out monitoring reports for the project sponsors to complete. Reporting will be required to monitor the project's delivery schedule, obligation of funds, invoicing, and project close-out.

## ***Future Funding Opportunities***

In Spring 2014, federal Transportation Alternative Program funds will be added to this Call for Projects once the California Transportation Commission releases its call for projects for statewide and Metropolitan Planning Organization funding per the state's Active Transportation Program.

In anticipation of the next federal authorization bill, another Call for Projects could take place within the next two years. The 2016 STIP cycle will also present another funding opportunity within the next two years. Therefore, local agencies are encouraged to continue developing projects for these funding opportunities, or in the event a new funding opportunity becomes available. For larger, high cost projects local agencies should consider environmental clearance under NEPA to allow for flexibility in maximizing funding opportunities.

Financial Information					
In Fiscal Year Budget:	N/A	Year:	FY 2014/15+	Amount:	\$24,184,500
Source of Funds:	2009 Western Riverside County Measure A Regional Arterial funds		Budget Adjustment:	N/A	
GL/Project Accounting No.:	266 72 81301	\$24,184,500			
Fiscal Procedures Approved:	<i>Theresa Trevino</i>			Date:	12/19/13