

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT (TE) PROGRAM LOCAL APPLICATION PROCESS 2010 STIP CYCLE

I. INTRODUCTION

As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Mendocino County, the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) has the responsibility to identify and select local projects for funding through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program.

Pursuant to this responsibility, the following process was developed by MCOG's Technical Advisory Committee and adopted by MCOG on June 7, 1999, revised in 2001, and 2004. Updates have been made for the 2010 TE/STIP cycle to reflect the new requirements for involvement of the California Conservation Corps and the current application cycle timelines. This process shall be followed to identify and select projects for funding throughout the existence of SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficiency Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users). Projects selected for funding shall be programmed in MCOG's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for the purpose of ensuring their inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

II. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants - Applicants or sponsoring agencies must be capable of entering into a Master Agreement with Caltrans. Potential applicants or sponsoring agencies may include partners to the Joint Powers Agreement creating the Mendocino Council of Governments (the County of Mendocino and Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits and Point Arena) as well as the Mendocino Transit Authority, the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, and the California Western Railroad.

Projects - A listing of the 12 eligible categories/projects is available at (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/TransEnhAct/TransEnact.htm>) or may be obtained by contacting the MCOG office.

Conservation Corps Partnership- Senate Bill 286 requires the selection of all TE projects to be based on projects which partner with, or commit to employ the services of a Community Conservation Corps or the California Conservation Corps. RTPAs are required to use the following criteria in prioritizing and selecting TE projects for programming in the Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP):

- (1) TE eligible projects whose sponsor is partnering with, or has agreed to employ the services of a Community Conservation Corps or the California Conservation Corps (collectively referred to as corps), shall be selected first for funding (the scope of the work performed by the corps will be identified in page 6 of the TE application);

- (2) After all TE eligible projects described in paragraph (1) have been selected for funding; the remaining eligible TE projects may be selected.

TE Project candidates that meet the following specific categories are exempt from the above selection criteria and may compete on an equal basis with all project candidates in category (1) above:

- (a) Projects that have been selected and programmed in a RTIP prior to June 25, 2009.
- (b) Projects for which no corps will partner with the sponsor or agree to provide services. A project sponsor can request this exemption only by certifying on the TE Application, with the concurrence of the California Conservation Corps and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps, that the sponsor notified both organizations about the available project, but that no corps in the state was prepared to serve as a partner or provide services.

III. APPLICATION FORMS/APPLICATION REVIEW

The attached TE application package (application form, screening criteria, model project scoring, project scoring form) shall be utilized. MCOG's Technical Advisory Committee shall serve as the Review Committee to rank applications, with outside expertise called upon if needed. In formulating funding recommendations to MCOG, the TAC may consider other relevant factors (such as: consistency with overall transportation goals and priorities, cost effectiveness, overall cost, relationship to other projects, alternative funding sources, etc.) and through the exercise of professional judgment, may vary from that priority order which may have been established through the numerical ranking process. Final project selection shall be made by MCOG.

IV. FUNDING

MCOG has a total of **\$1,674,000** available for programming in this application cycle, which will primarily be available for use starting in FY 2011/12 and continuing through FY 2014/15.

V. APPLICATION CYCLE - TIME FRAMES

Application Cycle - Projects shall be solicited and funding awarded in one TE application cycle. Successful projects will be adopted as part of the 2010 RTIP.

Time Frames - applications shall be solicited over a four month period from September 15, 2009 through October 30, 2009. Deadline for application submittal shall be 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2009. TAC review and ranking is expected to occur during November with MCOG selection expected to occur at their regularly scheduled meeting of December 7, 2009.

VI. MINIMUM PROJECT SIZE

The minimum project size for projects funded in this federal program is \$100,000. Since the federal process is somewhat cumbersome, sponsors are encouraged to consider larger projects than the minimum (\$250,000 and up).

VII. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PROCESS

MCOG will provide press releases, public notices, and workshops as appropriate throughout the County to publicize the availability of TE program funding.

VIII. COORDINATION - OTHER MCOG PROGRAMS

MCOG will coordinate, as appropriate, the call for projects for the TE program with MCOG's LTF 2% Bike & Pedestrian Program. *(No LTF 2% funds available for current cycle.)*

IX. PERFORMANCE/REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All projects recommended for TE funding will be subject to all applicable state and federal requirements, including the NEPA process. Successful applicants will be required to submit quarterly status reports to MCOG in a form acceptable to MCOG.

X. COPIES/APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Fourteen (14) copies of the completed application must be submitted to the MCOG office, 367 N. State Street, Suite 206, Ukiah, CA 95482, by the October 30, 2009 due date.

XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information regarding the TE program, please contact Nephele Barrett, Senior Planner at 707-463-1859 or barrettn@dow-associates.com. Additional information can also be found on MCOG's website, www.mendocinocog.org.