

TO: Regional Transportation Commission  
FROM: Pat Dellin, Acting Executive Director  
RE: Support for AMBAG Grant Applications

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission indicate its support for four grant applications submitted by AMBAG.

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## **DISCUSSION**

AMBAG is applying for four grants and seeks SCCRTC support for the grant applications. Three of the four will involve contributions of SCCRTC staff time as part of the required local match.

If the grants are awarded, AMBAG will request that the SCCRTC allocate that staff time in a future amendment to the SCCRTC Budget and Work Program.

In a separate agenda item, SCCRTC staff recommends submitting a grant application to Caltrans for funding for the Transportation Funding Task Force. The RTC would seek support from our partner agencies for that application, including AMBAG.

### **1. State Regional Blueprint Planning Program - Monterey Bay Region**

Funded initially with \$5 million per year for two years, the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program is a voluntary, competitive grant program for the State's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to conduct comprehensive scenario planning (visioning) resulting in consensus by regional leaders, local governments and stakeholders on a preferred growth scenario for a minimum twenty-year horizon. For the Monterey Bay region, this grant will provide a means to more realistically evaluate future land use patterns and their potential impacts on community livability, sustainability, aesthetics, transportation, housing supply, etc. The proposed project includes: a) streamlining and/or condensing the regional model to produce on-site travel output results during the workshops; b) preparing an updated land use forecast for the region; and c) conducting voluntary "Smart Growth" analyses for interested communities in a series of workshops. Of the \$5 million, half is available to small- to medium-sized MPOs, like the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG).

AMBAG will apply for \$440,000 in State blueprint grant funds to support the proposal with \$110,000 of required nonfederal match. If approved, AMBAG will request that the SCCRTC allocate some staff time to this project to help with the required local match.

A letter of support from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (Transportation Agency for Monterey County) for this project is attached ([Attachment1](#)).

## **2. TULIP (Travel behavior – Urban Land-use Interaction Package)**

This grant proposal, under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Statewide Planning Studies, would fund household surveys to determine the attractiveness of different land uses for transit and other means of reduced travel demand. The survey results would be incorporated into the regional travel demand model to better predict travel behavior based on land use variations.

The surveying itself would cost \$162,000 and would be combined with a \$58,000 AMBAG contribution and \$21,500 of in-kind assistance from other agencies' participation in the peer review committee, advisory group, survey review and analysis and incorporation of survey results.

SCCRTC staff would be requested by AMBAG to participate in the advisory committees and consult on and review work products. This staff time would contribute to the in-kind local share needed for this grant.

## **3. Monterey Bay Region Freight Analysis Framework**

This grant proposal, under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Partnership Planning Program, would facilitate the formation of a tri-county region Freight Advisory Committee to elicit the information and needs of freight providers in the development of a freight module to the regional travel demand model. Through the guidance of a public/private industry steering committee and the input of a regional freight advisory committee, information regarding freight travel patterns, preferred routes, and freight movement choices would provide the basis for validating a freight module addition. The resultant product will be used to develop a prioritized list of freight infrastructure needs.

The grant request is for \$138,000 and would be combined with a \$30,000 AMBAG contribution and \$39,000 of in-kind assistance from Caltrans' and other agencies' participation in the advisory committees and model development, calibration and documentation.

SCCRTC staff would be requested by AMBAG to participate in the advisory committees and consult on and review work products. This staff time would contribute to the in-kind local share needed for this grant.

## **4. Rotational Transit Planning Interns**

Proposed for the Federal Transit Administration Transit Professional Development Program, this grant would fund transit planning interns assigned to either two or three agencies on a rotational basis. At roughly \$14,500/year salary working half-time, the proposed amount would be either \$29,000 or \$43,500 with an in-kind match of either roughly \$3,750 or \$5,650 to fund either two or three interns, respectively. Currently, Monterey-Salinas Transit and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County have committed to participate in the proposal; Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District staff is

currently considering the proposal and their interest in joining. If two agencies participate, two interns would be hired for a one-year period, with each working six months at each of the two properties. If a third agency participates, three interns would be hired for a one-year period, with each working four months at each of the three properties. As the interns would be working on a rotational basis, only one intern at a time would be at any one of the participating agencies.

No staff participation by SCCRTC is requested for this grant.

## **SUMMARY**

AMBAG is applying for four grants and seeks SCCRTC support for the grant applications. Three of the four grants would require contributions of SCCRTC staff time as part of the required local match, if the grants are awarded.

In a separate agenda item, three SCCRTC will submit a grant application to Caltrans for funding for the Transportation Funding Task Force. The RTC's partner agencies, including AMBAG, for will be asked for support for the grant application.

Attachment 1: Letter of support from Transportation Agency for Monterey County for AMBAG's grant application for Regional Blueprint Planning Funds