

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM & CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



SCAG authors the roadmap for Southern California's mobility by organizing and prioritizing transportation projects across the region, and spearheading programs to meet environmental, economic and equity goals, and support jurisdictions in addressing their diverse transportation needs.

### OVERVIEW

The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program are Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) programs that provide flexible funding for transportation projects that meet regional criteria, as described in SCAG's STBG/CMAQ guidelines. SCAG is responsible for the administration and project selection for STBG and CMAQ funds in its region.

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The STBG program provides flexible funding to best address state and local transportation needs. For more information on project eligibility, please refer to the [FHWA memo](#).

#### CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The CMAQ program provides funding for transportation projects or programs that improve air quality and relieve congestion. Projects or programs must generate an emissions reduction and be located in, or offer a benefit to, a nonattainment or maintenance area. For more information on project eligibility, please refer to the [FHWA Interim Program Guidance](#).

### STBG/CMAQ FEDERAL CORRECTIVE ACTION

During the [2022 SCAG federal certification review](#), the FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a corrective action requiring a review of CMAQ and STBG administrative policies and the development of a process that ensures compliance with federal program guidelines and regulations. In collaboration with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and county transportation commissions, SCAG implemented the STBG/CMAQ Compliance Action Plan to develop and adopt program guidelines for the selection of STBG and CMAQ projects consistent with the corrective action. The SCAG Compliance Action Plan accomplishes the following:

- > Replacing the federal transportation funding suballocations by population or mode to cities and counties with a performance-based approach.
- > Modifying the eligibility screening conducted for compliance with federal program guidance and regulations.
- > Modifying the project selection process so federally funded transportation projects are selected by SCAG as the metropolitan planning organization.

# PERFORMANCE-BASED PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

As of July 1, 2023, SCAG is responsible for the selection of STBG/CMAQ-funded projects within the region. Projects are selected through a solicitation for project nominations process consistent with the approved SCAG STBG/CMAQ program guidelines. Eligible applicants for STBG and CMAQ funding include SCAG cities, counties, transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments and county transportation commissions.

Each county transportation commission is responsible for the coordination and submission of project nominations to SCAG from eligible entities in their respective counties. Local project sponsors should contact their county transportation commission regarding the project nomination process.

IMPERIAL COUNTY	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	ORANGE COUNTY
<a href="#">Imperial County Transportation Commission</a>	<a href="#">Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority</a>	<a href="#">Orange County Transportation Authority</a>
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	VENTURA COUNTY
<a href="#">Riverside County Transportation Commission</a>	<a href="#">San Bernardino County Transportation Authority</a>	<a href="#">Ventura County Transportation Commission</a>

SCAG will review project nominations submitted by the county transportation commissions against the program criteria and develop a list of prioritized projects for approval by the SCAG Regional Council. Projects approved by SCAG for STBG and CMAQ funding must be programmed in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

## CONTACT

Questions regarding STBG and CMAQ funding should be directed to:

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