

# REGIONAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Skagit Council of Governments Transportation Policy Board will select projects for funding in the Skagit region at their meeting in July/August 2019. The federal funding decision will award Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and Highway Improvement Program funds to projects. For this project selection, each project will be evaluated based on approved criteria and weights.

The Skagit Council of Governments, as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Skagit County, has been given the authority by Washington state to award funding to projects using these federal funds. The Washington State Department of Transportation has a summary of STBGP [on their website](#), along with the funding formula used statewide to allocate STBGP funds and the role of MPOs in the process.

SCOG typically selects projects for STBGP funding every two years and the last time this was completed was in 2017. The Highway Improvement Program funding is a one-time allocation to SCOG, and is included in the STBGP project selection process. Project eligibility is very similar between the two programs.

### FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Funding estimates for the Call for Projects continue the practice of awarding approximately two-years of regionally managed Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funding to projects in the Skagit region, along with any unutilized funding. Funding levels to the Skagit region change year to year as allocations change, projects obligate or de-obligate funds, and projects are deprogrammed. Future funding available is estimated with every project selection process at SCOG and project awards are based on these estimates.

Estimates are derived using past obligations and allocations for the Skagit region, future anticipated allocations through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (2024 & 2025), and a one-time allocation from the Highway Infrastructure Program (2018).

A minimum of \$1,765,577 should be awarded to projects in Urban Areas and a minimum of \$1,514,358 should be awarded in Rural Areas. The remaining \$2,413,840 may be awarded in any area. The minimum thresholds for Urban Areas and Rural Areas are estimated based on anticipated funding that must be used in these areas per federal requirements. Estimated funding available through the Call for Projects is included in the following table.

Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Any Area	Total
\$1,765,577	\$1,514,358	\$2,413,840	\$5,693,775

Historically, the Transportation Policy Board has allocated STBGP funds to supplement other revenue streams that support the transportation planning process at SCOG. Every year, SCOG programs any STBGP revenues in the [Unified Planning Work Program](#). The work program includes considerations to address the federal and state requirements in the transportation planning process. Continuing this policy would result in STBGP funds allocated to SCOG for four more years, 2022–2025. The current STBGP award for SCOG administration expires in 2021.

## NON-ROADWAY FUNDING SET-ASIDE

At the discretion of the Transportation Policy Board, a minimum of 10% of STBGP funding is anticipated to be set-aside for non-roadway projects. Examples of eligible non-roadway projects include: transit capital projects; recreational trails; ferry boats and terminals; and safe routes to school programs. A complete list of eligible STBGP projects, including non-roadway projects, is located at [23 USC 133\(b\)](#).

This set-aside is not specific to any one mode of transportation and is intended to ensure a minimum level of funding to projects that may not otherwise be competitive with roadway projects due to the criteria and weights used in the evaluation process.

## FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Most roadway projects can only be funded using STBGP funds if the roadway has a federal functional classification. Projects on Rural Minor Collectors can only receive up to 15% of the Rural Areas funding (\$227,154) per the special rule at [23 USC 133\(g\)](#).

## APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms includes project details for each project that will be considered for funding. Each project being submitted needs a separate application form. An applicant may submit as many projects to SCOG as they wish.

- [Project Application Form](#)
- [Contingency List Project Application Form](#)
- [Project Endorsement Form](#) (required for every project)

## TIMEFRAME TO SUBMIT

Applications will be accepted by SCOG from April 19–May 15. Any incomplete applications will be flagged by SCOG staff and applicants will be notified as soon as possible of any required materials not submitted. May 29 is the final deadline to submit any application materials to complete application packets.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Application materials must be submitted to Mark Hamilton at SCOG, by email only, at [markh@scog.net](mailto:markh@scog.net). Paper application materials will not be accepted. All applicants will receive confirmation of materials received via email.

## PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA & WEIGHTS

Projects submitted will be evaluated from May 17–May 29. Project evaluations will be based on approved criteria and weights. These criteria and weights were approved by the Transportation Policy Board at their April 17, 2019 meeting.

The priority areas for the evaluation criteria and their associated weights are listed below:

#### OBJECTIVE CRITERIA (SCORED BY SCOG STAFF)

- Economic Vitality – 20%
- Safety – 20%
- Mobility – 20%
- Regional Nature – 10%
- Project Funding & Readiness – 15%
- Preservation & Maintenance – 5%

#### SUBJECTIVE CRITERION (SCORED BY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

- Technical Advisory Committee Priority – 10%

TOTAL 100%

Individual criteria, and points available per criterion, are included in the Project Application Form. Technical Advisory Committee members are not permitted to evaluate any project from the government they represent. The final action of selecting projects for STBGP funding will be taken by the Transportation Policy Board at their July/August meeting.

#### CONTINGENCY LIST

A contingency list of projects will be prepared for projects that can easily move forward if the region is expected to fall short of its annual obligation target. Inclusion of any project on the contingency list does not guarantee the project will be funded. Projects on the contingency list must be able to obligate funding very fast, often in less than 6 weeks. Sponsors of contingency list projects may also submit the proposed project as part of the general Call for Projects. The submissions will be prioritized according to the following criteria:

- What is the regional issue the project will address?
- What is the desired outcome from the project?
- Does the project address an issue identified in the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan?
- What is the level of regional impact the project will have?
- Can the project reasonably obligate funding in 6 weeks if necessary?

Projects proposed for the contingency list will be distributed to the Technical Advisory Committee for evaluation. A prioritized contingency list, with rank ordered projects, will be recommended to the Transportation Policy Board for consideration. Technical Advisory Committee members are not permitted to evaluate any project from their own organization.

#### QUESTIONS

Any questions about the Call for Projects should be submitted in writing to Mark Hamilton at [markh@scog.net](mailto:markh@scog.net). Written questions received, if any, will be posted to the SCOG website with staff responses.

## SCHEDULE

March 7, 2019:.....	Technical Advisory Committee recommends proposed evaluation process, including evaluation criteria and weights, to Transportation Policy Board
March 20, 2019:.....	Transportation Policy Board discusses Technical Advisory Committee recommendation on proposed evaluation process
March 22–April 5, 2019:.....	Public comment period on proposed evaluation process
April 17, 2019: .....	Transportation Policy Board approves evaluation process, after consideration of any public comments received
April 19–May 15, 2019:.....	Applications submitted to SCOG
May 17–29, 2019:.....	Evaluation of applications
May 20, 2019:.....	Project presentations to Technical Advisory Committee from project sponsors
May 29, 2019:.....	Project evaluations due to SCOG from Technical Advisory Committee
June 4, 2019:.....	Non-Motorized Advisory Committee recommendations (if any) to Technical Advisory Committee on project selection
June 6, 2019:.....	Technical Advisory Committee recommends project selection to Transportation Policy Board
June 19, 2019:.....	Transportation Policy Board discusses Technical Advisory Committee recommendation on proposed project selection
June 21–July 5, 2019:.....	Tentative public comment period on recommended project selection from Technical Advisory Committee
July 17 or August 21, 2019: .....	Transportation Policy Board makes project award decisions, after consideration of any public comments received