



Brighter Outlook for Transportation Network

SB 1 Grants Distributed for Highway Repairs, Transit Upgrades, Climate Projects

A wide range of transportation agencies, communities and projects throughout California have been the beneficiary of funding in recent months from the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (Senate Bill 1).

In August, California Transportation Commission (CTC) directed a total of \$690 million to more than 100 transportation projects. Depending on the project, that work will be paid for either entirely or in part by SB 1 revenues.

The CTC also approved spending more than \$1.3 billion on nearly 150 transportation projects to perform additional maintenance, improvements and construction in the state.

Most of these projects receiving allocations are part of the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP), which is the State Highway System's "fix-it-first" fund that pays for safety improvements, emergency repairs, highway preservation and some operational highway improvements.

Other programs created by SB 1 — Solutions for Congested Corridors, Trade Corridor Enhancement, and Local Partnership Program — also will benefit from the latest round of allocations by the CTC. These programs are designed to tackle congestion, support valuable trade corridors, and bolster local agency efforts to invest in transportation.

The CTC also directed more than \$122 million in SB 1 dollars for 11 rail and transit projects under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program that concentrates on modernizing transit systems, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and making safety improvements.

Approvals for other SB 1-related transportation programs made recently:

Sustainable Communities grants

Caltrans earlier awarded \$41 million in local transportation planning grants for 64 projects that support more sustainable communities, reduce transportation-related greenhouse gases, and adapt for the effects of climate change.



The Altamont Corridor Express carries riders between the Central Valley and Bay Area. SB 1 funds will help study regional rail connectivity.

SB 1 provides \$25 million annually for this grant program, which is awarded competitively and by formula to eligible projects. A combination of state and federal sources provide the remainder of the funding.

Caltrans develops the grant guides and applications, and awards the money. To assure that funds are being spent properly, the Department receives and reviews all the invoices associated with approved projects, and gets quarterly progress reports. Representatives of Caltrans' district offices also participate in technical advisory committees for the grant studies.

The grants support regional strategies to cumulatively reduce state's greenhouse gas levels 40 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively.

Among the projects awarded funding:

- Altamont rail connection feasibility study, \$750,000;
- The Tri-Valley San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail

Authority will study the possibility of rail connectivity between Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and Altamont Corridor Express, providing direct service connections and helping meet mega-regional and state goals for a vital rail link between the Bay Area and Central Valley.

- Riverside County Highway 74 multi-modal transit plan, \$133,000: A multi-modal transit plan for the State Route 74 corridor from Lake Elsinore to Perris is being developed. Low-income communities along this route face significant barriers to mobility, including limited transportation infrastructure, lack of pedestrian and bicycle access to transit and community resources, and limited transit.
 - Stockton Boulevard (Sacramento) Complete Streets Plan, \$354,120: The city of Sacramento plans an analysis of a four-mile stretch of Stockton Boulevard, with the intent to transform a blighted corridor with a history of traffic injuries and provide multi-modal transportation connections to the downtown city core.
- A complete list of grant projects can be found [here](#).

Adaptation Planning grants

The CTC earlier awarded \$7 million to 22 local and regional agencies to study ways to strengthen their transportation network in the face of climate change and extreme weather events. SB 1 will provide a total of \$20 million over three years for this grant program. Among projects awarded funding are:

- Sea level rise adaptation plan for Humboldt Bay transportation infrastructure, \$425,000: This project will develop a plan for vulnerable transportation infrastructure along the shoreline in Humboldt Bay that is highly susceptible to sea level rise and extreme weather events.
- Amador and Calaveras County extreme weather and natural disaster needs assessment, \$150,466: The impacts of extreme weather events caused by wildfires, droughts, flooding, mudslides and tree mortality on roadways and other related infrastructure in the Sierra Nevada foothills will be studied. Best practices against major damage, costs to the region, and funding sources will be identified.
- Ventura County transportation emergency preparedness plan, \$221,325: The Ventura County Transportation Commission and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments will coordinate with transit operators to better prepare for natural disasters.

These programs are designed to tackle congestion, support valuable trade corridors, and bolster local agency efforts to invest in transportation.

The Adaptation Planning grants are listed [here](#):

State of Good Repair program


Caltrans distributed \$105 million to dozens of local governments and agencies around the state to rehabilitate and modernize existing local transit systems for the 2017-18 fiscal year. SB 1 requires that qualifying agencies receive this amount from the State of Good Repair program each fiscal year.

Funds are awarded to eligible agencies on the basis of population and transit operator revenues. The money is intended to maintain or repair existing transit vehicle fleets or facilities, or help in the design, acquisition or construction of new vehicles or facilities to maintain existing transit services.

Among the awards:

- \$87,090 to Tehama County for the Walnut Street rehabilitation and bringing the Red Bluff Transit Transfer Center up to ADA standards, as well as other facility upgrades.
- \$815,830 to the city of Los Angeles for the electrification of 20 bus shuttles.
- \$67,436 to the Morongo Basin Transit Authority in San Bernardino County for bus stop upgrades to improve accessibility and safety.
- \$1,256,425 to Los Angeles' Metrolink to refurbish and upgrade 14 railcars to improve passenger comfort and safety, reliability and upgrade to current standards.

Each recipient agency is required to submit an annual expenditure report on all activities completed with State of Good Repair funds to Caltrans. Revenues and expenditures also must be identified in agencies' annual audits.

State of Good Repair awards: www.dot.ca.gov/drmt/spstasgr.html. 

Source: Caltrans Public Affairs Office; public information officer Angela DaPrato