Low Carbon Transit Operations Program

Fact Sheet

Background and Funding: The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) is one of several programs funded as part of 2014-15 State of California budget (by Senate Bill 852 and Senate Bill 862) which has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achievement of other benefits. These programs are funded by auction proceeds from the California Air Resource Board's (ARB) Cap-and-Trade Program, with proceeds deposited into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The following chart lists the programs funded by revenues in the GGRF, and the amount of each program's funding in 2015-16, as well as what was awarded in 2014-15 and as an ongoing share where applicable.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with ARB and the State Controllers' Office (SCO), shall determine the eligibility of the proposed project based on the documentation provided by the recipient transit agency to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

Category	Agency/Department	Program	2014-15	2015-16	On-going
Sustainable Communities and Clean Transportation	High-Speed Rail Authority	High-Speed Rail Project	$250 m	$500m	25%
	State Control Office/Caltrans	***Low Carbon Transit Operations Program***	***$25 m***	**$100m**	**5%**
	CalSTA/ Caltrans	*Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program*	*$25 m*	$200m	10%
	Strategic Growth Council	Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program	$130 m	$400m	20%
	Air Resources Board	Low Carbon Transportation	$200 m	$96m	Annual Appropriations
Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy	Dept. of Community Services and Development	Energy efficiency Upgrades/Weatherization	$75 m	$79m	Annual Appropriations
	Energy Commission	Energy Efficiency for Public Buildings	$20 m		
	Dept. of Food and Agriculture	Agricultural Energy and Operational Efficiency	$ 15 m	$40m	
Natural Resources and Waste Diversion	Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Wetlands and Watershed Restoration	$25 m	$2m	Annual Appropriations
	Dept. of Forestry and Fire protection	Fire Prevention and Urban Forestry Projects	$42 m		
	Cal Recycle	Waste Diversion	$25 m	$6m	
Total			$832 m	$1,443 m	

Legislative History: Prior legislation established state goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and created tools to achieve these reductions.

- Assembly Bill 32 (2006) set greenhouse gas reduction targets and authorized the Cap-and-Trade Program at the Air Resources Board.
- Senate Bill 375 (2008) and Senate Bill 391 (2009) require sustainable communities strategies be included in regional transportation plans and the statewide transportation plan.
- Senate Bill 535 (2011) requires that programs funded from the revenues in the GGRF result in benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Program Goals and Eligible Projects: Approved projects will support new or expanded bus or rail services, or expanded intermodal transit facilities, and may include equipment acquisition, fueling, and maintenance and other costs to operate those services or facilities, with each project reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Legislation passed in 2011, Senate Bill 535 which requires that programs funded from revenues in the GGRF result in benefits to disadvantaged communities. For transit agencies whose service areas include disadvantage communities, at least 50 percent of the total funds received shall be expended on projects or services that benefit the DAC.

Program Status and Updates: Caltrans, in coordination with ARB and SCO, is in the process of updating Guidelines to address timelines for continuous appropriations and to clarify a few administrative items. Public workshops were held in August 2015.

In FY 2014-15 $25 million was appropriated to the LCTOP. Caltrans submitted 95 eligible projects for funding to the SCO with 68 projects benefitting disadvantaged communities. The LCTOP will receive $100 million in 2015-16 and 5 percent will be continuously appropriated annually beginning with FY 2015-16.

LCTOP Timeline for FY 2015-16 (TENTATIVE):
(The timeline for FY 15-16 is tentative pending finalization of the Quantification Methodology Tool.)

SCO notifies transit operators of available funds	**November 1, 2015**
Caltrans posts Updated LCTOP Guidelines	**December 1, 2015**
Review and approval of eligible projects list submitted to SCO	**February 1, 2016**
SCO releases approved amount of funds to recipients	**June 1, 2016**

Questions or comments may be directed to the Division of Rail and Mass Transportation at (916)653-3060.

Written comments on LCTOP may be directed to lctopcomments@dot.ca.gov.