

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (RIP) POLICIES AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) has established the following process to identify and select local projects for programming in future Mendocino County Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIPs). As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Mendocino County, MCOG is required by California State Law to prepare and adopt a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) by December 15 of each odd-numbered year, for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Pursuant to this requirement, the following process was developed by the MCOG's Technical Advisory Committee (*comprised of representatives from the County, cities, Caltrans, MTA, and Rail*) and adopted by the Mendocino Council of Governments on November 2, 1998; revised on May 7, 2001, on September 6, 2011 to conform to MCOG policies as established in the Strategic Planning Workshops of 2010, on August 26, 2013, and again on August 14, 2023, for consistency with current MCOG policies and practices. This process shall be followed to identify and select projects for funding and programming in future Mendocino County RTIPs.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants - All partners to the Joint Powers Agreement creating the Mendocino Council of Governments (the County of Mendocino and cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Willits, and Point Arena), as well as the Mendocino Transit Authority are eligible applicants.

Projects - Only capital projects will be considered for SB 45 funding per MCOG policy. Maintenance and operations projects are ineligible under this program. Details regarding eligibility are outlined in STIP Guidelines developed by the California Transportation Commission.

Modes - The following modes are eligible for SB 45 funding: Highways/Streets/Roads; Transit; and Bike & Pedestrian.

III. PROJECT RATING CRITERIA/EVALUATION PROCESS

Projects shall be evaluated based on the Project Rating Criteria, as revised August 14, 2023. Evaluations and scoring will be conducted by the Technical Advisory Committee. In formulating funding recommendations to MCOG, the TAC may consider other relevant factors (such as: consistency with overall transportation goals and priorities, cost effectiveness, overall cost, relationship to other projects, alternative funding sources, etc.) and through the exercise of professional judgment, may vary from that priority order which may have been established through the numerical ranking process. Final project selection shall be made by MCOG.

IV. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) REQUIREMENT

All projects recommended for funding and programmed in the RTIP shall be identified in, or consistent with, the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

V. PROJECT STUDY REPORT (PSR) REQUIREMENT

All projects recommended for funding shall have a draft PSR or equivalent prior to the application due date. A final PSR, consistent with state requirements, must be completed prior to approval of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

VI. PERFORMANCE/REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All projects recommended for funding and programmed in the RTIP will be subject to all applicable state and federal requirements (timely use of funds, project delivery, reporting requirements, etc.). Successful applicants will be required to submit quarterly status reports to MCOG in a form acceptable to MCOG.

VII. APPLICATION FORMS/PACKAGE

The attached RIP application form shall be utilized. Applicants may expand the answer fields on the form to accommodate longer answers. Additional information may be attached to the application form, if desired. The application package shall consist of: application form, project rating criteria forms, scoring forms, and these policies and instructions.

VIII. APPLICATION CYCLE

The 2024 RIP application cycle shall be from August 15 – September 29, 2023, with applications due to the MCOG office by 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2023.

X. APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Three (3) hard copies of the completed application, and one electronic copy (including attachments) must be submitted to the MCOG office, 525 S. Main Street, Suite B, Ukiah, CA, 95842, by the indicated due date. If there are attachments that are too large to transmit electronically, additional hard copies may be requested.

XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on MCOG's RIP please contact James Sookne, MCOG Program Manager at 707-463-1859.