

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK FOR IMPERIAL COUNTY

SCAG STBG/CMAQ PROGRAM



Approved March 26, 2025

The Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) intends to issue a SCAG region Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) /Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Call for Project Nominations in March 2025. The SCAG guidelines require CTCs to perform an initial project screening and evaluation, then submit project nominations to SCAG for regional evaluation and project selection. This document describes the Imperial County Transportation Commission's (ICTC) project prioritization framework for SCAG's 2025 Call for Projects Nominations.

Project Prioritization Framework	
A.	The ICTC Regional criteria and scoring rubrics are provided in Exhibit 1, and the schedule is presented in Exhibit 3. Projects will be prioritized based on project scores. Eligible projects can achieve up to 100 points. Project scores will be converted into recommendation categories: Highly Recommended, Recommended, Contingency List, and Not Recommended . To achieve an overall Highly Recommended determination, projects must achieve a score of at least 85 points. To achieve an overall Recommended determination, projects must achieve a score of at least 70 and less than 85 points. To be considered for the Contingency List, projects must achieve a score of at least 55 points. Projects that achieve a score of less than 55 or are ineligible will be determined to be Not Recommended.
B.	The Project Prioritization Framework including regional criteria and scoring rubrics will be presented to the ICTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and policy board for review, comment, and approval.
C.	The recommended project prioritization list will be presented to the ICTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and policy board for review, comment, and approval.
D.	The approved ICTC project prioritization list will be forwarded to SCAG.

Exhibit 1: ICTC Regional Criteria and Scoring Rubrics	
Criteria	Possible points
1. Eligibility: Project meets federal and regional eligibility requirements. Ineligible projects will not be recommended.	Pass/Fail
2. County Priorities: Project is consistent with local and county-wide planning documents and/or studies. Project is included in an approved planning or programming document. Projects recommended in approved planning and/or programming documents will receive higher scores.	0 to 25
3. Community/Stakeholder Engagement: Project demonstrates community support from priority populations defined as being located within federally	0 to 20

<p>designated Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities. Community support may be determined through a variety of means, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Responses to public outreach, including comments received at public meetings or hearings, feedback from community workshops, survey responses, plan development etc.; and/or b. Endorsement by a community-based organization. <p>Projects that demonstrate community support through a variety of means will receive higher scores.</p>	
<p>4. Deliverability and Readiness: Project demonstrates readiness within the programming period. Implementing agency has sufficient capacity and technical expertise to meet deadlines. Projects with milestone dates that are fully identified in the application for all project phases including Preliminary Engineering (PA&ED and PS&E) ROW acquisition and Construction as appropriate for the project will score higher. A description of proposed activities to ensure and/or accelerate completion of the project as proposed in the schedules should be provided to increase the score.</p>	0 to 30
<p>5. Regional Priorities: Project is a Tier 1 Regional Priority based on the SCAG STBG/CMAQ Program Guidelines. No = 0 points; Yes = 10 points.</p>	0 or 10
<p>6. Leveraging / Continuity / Other Factors: Project leverages other funding sources. Earlier project phases were funded in prior cycles and should receive continued support. STBG/CMAQ funds are needed to fully fund a regionally significant project. Other factors of overriding concern.</p>	0 to 15
<p>TOTAL</p>	<p>100</p>

After completing the Project evaluation, the total score achieved per the ICTC Regional Criteria and Scoring Rubric, will be converted into recommendation categories. (see Table 1 below).

Recommendation Categories	Possible Points
Highly Recommended	100-85
Recommended	85-70
Contingency List	70-55
Not Recommended	55-0

Once the score is converted into recommendation categories, ICTC will submit project nominations to SCAG based on **Highly Recommended**, **Recommended**, **Contingency List**, and **Not Recommended**. Based on the SCAG CMAQ/STBG guidelines Appendix E Detailed Scoring Rubric, projects which receive a **Highly Recommended** recommendation will receive **50 points**, projects that are **Recommended** will receive **40 points**, projects that are in the **Contingency List** will receive **20 points**, and project **Not Recommended** will receive **0 points**. See below Table 2. (Appendix E of the SCAG CMAQ/STBG Guidelines).

Table 2. **SCAG’s Detailed Scoring Rubric for CTC Prioritization**

CTC Prioritization	
Prioritized in the CTC list as Highly Recommended	50 Points
Prioritized in the CTC list as Recommended	40 Points
Prioritized in the CTC Contingency List	20 Points
Not recommended	0 Points

Exhibit 2: ICTC STBP/CMAQ Program Schedule¹		
	Start	Finish
ICTC Project Prioritization Framework (Due to SCAG; includes Board approval)	January 2025	March 28, 2025
SCAG Call for Projects Process adheres to SCAG application process; application submitted to SCAG through online portal. NOTE: Applicants will not be able to submit applications after the 5/16/25 deadline.	March 31, 2025	May 16, 2025
ICTC Project Prioritization Process (Process uses ICTC Regional Criteria and Scoring Rubrics; applications submitted directly via the online SCAG portal are evaluated). ICTC Project Priority List due to SCAG on August 1, 2025	May 19, 2025	August 1, 2025

Exhibit 3: 2025 STBG/CMAQ Call for Projects Schedule	
January 23, 2025 (Thursday)	ICTC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews preliminary draft 2025 SCAG CMAQ & STBG Guidelines.
February 27, 2025 (Thursday)	TAC reviews and approves the 2025 CMAQ & STBG Call for Projects Schedule and Project Prioritization Framework (PPF).
March 12, 2025 (Wednesday)	SCAG-hosted Workshop- TIME 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
March 12, 2025 (Wednesday)	Management Committee reviews and approves the ICTC 2025 CMAQ & STBG Call for Projects Schedule and Project Prioritization Framework.
March 18, 2025 (Tuesday)	SCAG-hosted Workshop- TIME 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
March 26, 2025 (Wednesday)	ICTC Board reviews and approves the ICTC 2025 CMAQ & STBG Call for Projects Schedule and Project Prioritization Framework.
March 31, 2025 (Monday)	SCAG Call for Projects Nomination period begins including the ICTC PPF process. The Approved 2025 ICTC PPF and SCAG CMAQ & STBG Guidelines and link to the online application will be posted on the ICTC website. <i>(each local agency will need to sign up for an account to access the application on the SCAG portal)</i>

¹ Based on the updated schedule included in the February 5, 2025, SCAG PowerPoint Presentation

March 27, 2025 (Thursday)	SCAG – County Specific Workshop 10 a.m. This workshop will take place as part of the TAC meeting.
May 16, 2025 (Friday)	SCAG Call for Projects Nomination ends. Project applications deadline is 5:00 pm. (Applications are submitted to SCAG online portal)
May 19, 2025 (Monday)	Project selection evaluation process begins based on the ICTC Project Prioritization Framework.
June 19, 2025 (Thursday)	ICTC Project Prioritization Framework Scoring and Ranking Documentation Due to ICTC.
June 26, 2025 (Thursday)	ICTC Project Prioritization process ends (ICTC staff generates list of projects designated as Highly Recommended, Recommended, Contingency List, or Not Recommended for funding based on eligible applicant evaluation and ranking). Eligible Applicants will meet to complete the ranking process.
July 9, 2025 (Wednesday)	Management Committee reviews and approves project prioritized list recommendations.
July 9, 2025 (Wednesday)	Applicant Executed Resolutions (for match commitment) due to ICTC.
July 23, 2025 (Wednesday)	ICTC Board reviews and approves project prioritized list recommendations.
August 1, 2025 (Friday)	ICTC submits Project Prioritized List to SCAG.

Attachment 1- Supplemental Questionnaire

(to be submitted via *Jotform* link in SCAG application Database)

Deliverability and Readiness

Council/Board Resolution

Projects must be approved by the local agency submitting the project application through Council or Board resolution. Adopted resolutions should be included in the application under “Supplemental Questionnaire” through the *Jotform* link. Please upload your resolution. If a resolution has not been adopted by May 16, 2025, application deadline, a draft resolution should be included. Resolutions must indicate:

- Project name and requested amounts by funding source.
- The local match amount and the source and type of funds. If more than one project is included in the resolution, the local match amount and the source and type of funds should be provided for each project.
- Opportunity for public comment was provided at a public meeting.
- Project is in compliance with the local agency’s planning process such as included in the circulation element of the local agency’s general plan.
- Project is included in an adopted pavement management plan (rehabilitation projects only).
- Local agency commits to completing the project based on the project schedule included in the application to avoid losing funds to the “use-it-or-lose-it” provisions of AB 1012.

A sample resolution is provided in Attachment 2.

IF YOU INCLUDE A DRAFT RESOLUTION, INDICATE THE EXPECTED ADOPTION DATE.

Attachment 2: SAMPLE RESOLUTION

**BEFORE THE
(NAME OF CITY/COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL/BOARD)
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-__**

In the Matter of:

ICTC RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
(SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) / CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ))
FUNDING, PROJECT MILESTONE DATES, AND TIMELY USE OF FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the (City/County/District) is eligible to apply for and receive Federal and State transportation funds including (STBG/CMAQ) funds; and

WHEREAS, AB 1012 requires that state and federal funds be expended in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the (City/County/District) desires to ensure that its projects are delivered in a timely manner to avoid losing funds for non-delivery; and

WHEREAS, it is understood by the (City/County/District) that failure for not meeting project milestone dates for any phase of a project may jeopardize federal or state funding to the Region; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the (Council/Board/District) hereby agrees to ensure that all project milestone schedules for all project phases will be met or exceeded, and:

- a. The opportunity for public comment was provided at a public meeting;
- b. Local funds in the amount of \$_____ from _____ (source and type of funds) will be used to leverage the federal funds for the project;
- c. Project(s) is consistent with the _____ (plan: i.e., circulation element of the agency’s general plan) planning process;
- d. Project(s) is consistent with the adopted pavement management plan (for rehabilitation projects only).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that failure to meet project milestone schedules may be deemed as sufficient cause for the Imperial County Transportation Commission Policy Board to terminate funding and reprogram the funds as deemed necessary.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the (Council/Board/District) on _____, 2025.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT
ATTEST:

Signed: _____
Mayor, City of (-----)
Chair, Board of (-----)
Chair, (-----) Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the (Council/Board/District) duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Signed: _____
(-----, City/County Clerk)