

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

 DATE:
 Thursday, October 24, 2024

 TIME:
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 LOCATION:
 ICTC Offices

 1503 N. Imperial Ave., Suite 104

 El Centro, CA 92243

CHAIRPERSON: COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

VICE-CHAIR: CITY OF HOLTVILLE

In compliance with the Brown Act and Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed 72 hours prior to the meeting, which are public records relating to open session agenda items, will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting on the Commission's website: <u>www.imperialctc.org</u>.

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Non-Voting Members and the Public can join the Zoom Meeting by computer using video and audio, please click on the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2782845227?pwd=SGpFdnEwdTZxZW4vTnVyTE1EQ0ROUT09&omn=87 200020858

The meeting ID and Password are below in the event you may need them.

To join by phone please dial (720)707-2699. Meeting ID: 278 284 5227# Password: 1503#

PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on any subject matter within their jurisdiction, but not an item on the agenda. Any action taken because of public comment shall be limited to direction to staff. Each speaker should contact the Secretary to the Commission at (760) 592-4494 or by email to <u>cristilerma@imperialctc.org</u>. When addressing the Committee, state your name for the record prior to providing your comments. Please address the Committee as a whole, through the Chairperson. Individuals will be given three (3) minutes to address the Committee; groups or topics will be given a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. Public comments will be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes. If additional time is required for public comments, they will be heard at the end of the meeting. Please remember to follow the Public Comment Code of Conduct.

T: Projects\ICTC TAC\2025\October\A102424

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

(2)

- 2. Adoption of Minutes for September 26, 2024. Requesting a motion to adopt 3. LTA Overview Presented by ICTC Staff **ICTC Updates / Announcements**
- 4. Presented by ICTC Staff 1. Transit Updates 2. **Transportation Planning Updates**
 - State/Federal Funded Project Obligation List FFY24/25
 - LPP Follow up
- 5. **Caltrans Updates/ Announcements** Presented by Caltrans Staff (Local Assistance, Traffic Operations, Business Liaison & Tribal Liaison)
- 6. **SCAG Updates/ Announcements** Presented by SCAG Staff
- 7. **Cities and County Planning / Public Works Updates** All
- General Discussion / New Business 8.
- 9. Adjournment

1.

Introduction

The next meeting of the ICTC TAC is tentatively scheduled for November 21, 2024. For questions you may call Marlene Flores at (760) 592-4494 or contact by email at marleneflores@imperialctc.org

ACTION

PRESENTATION

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Requesting a motion to adopt



1503 N. IMPERIAL AVE., SUITE 104 EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2875 PHONE: (760) 592-4494 FAX: (760) 592-4410 **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

September 26, 2024

	September 20, 2024
Present:	
Ana Gutierrez	City of Brawley
Lily Falomir	City of Calexico
Fumi Galvan	City of Calipatria
Abraham Campos	City of El Centro
Angel Hernandez	City of El Centro
Jesus Villegas	City of Imperial
Fernando L. Williams	City of Imperial
Adriana Anguis	City of Holtville
Ramiro Barajas	City of Westmorland
Veronica Atondo	County of Imperial
Adolfo Garcia	County of Imperial
Manuel Ortiz	IID
Others:	
David Aguirre	ICTC
Katie Luna	ICTC
Marlene Flores	ICTC
Esperanza Avila	ICTC
Cesar Beltran	ICTC
Felix De Leon	City of El Centro
Hector Salcedo	City of El Centro
Andrea Montano	City of El Centro
Marco Coronel	County of Imperial
Lupe Valdez	Union Pacific
Ken Tom	Union Pacific
Ismael Garcia	ICAPCD
Rebecca Villarino	Caltrans
John Garcia	Caltrans
Bryan Ott	Caltrans
Rob Owen	Caltrans
Davids Salgado	SCAG
Zach Gardea	SCAG

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was present, and introductions were made. There were no public comments made.

T: Projects\ICTC TAC\2025 \September\M092624

ICTC TAC 09/26/24

1. A *motion* was made to adopt the minutes for August 22, 2024 (Anguis/Hernandez) with corrections, Motion Carried.

2. Union Pacific Permitting Presentation

Presented by Lupe Valdez and Ken Tom, Union Pacific

• A presentation was given by Lupe Valdez and Ken Tom on how to submit a Public Project with the Union Pacific Railroad.

3. Sub-Regional Partnership (SRP2.0)

Presented by Marlene Flores, ICTC

ICTC requested that the Technical Advisory Committee forward this item to the Management Committee and Commission after any discussion and/or recommendations and after public comments, if any:

- 1. Authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution approving the execution of an agreement to receive funding form the REAP 2.0 Grant Program of 2021 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU to ensure compliance with the REAP 2.0 Program requirements.
- 2. Direct Staff to forward the agreement to SCAG.

A motion was made to approve the Action Item. (Campos/Ortiz) Motion Carried.

4. EV Charging Study Scope Review

Presented by Katie Luna, ICTC

- ICTC has developed a scope of work for a regional EV Charging project. Staff are requesting to provide us with any feedback before finalization. This project includes a study of the region to provide future infrastructure of charging stations for passenger vehicles.
- Mr. Campos inquired about the end user's and IID's involvement in the project.

5. ICTC Updates / Announcements

Presented by ICTC Staff

a. Transit Planning Updates

2024 Local Partnership Program, Cycle 5:

- Is scheduled to adopt the 2024 LPP Program Cycle 5 Guidelines on August 15-16, 2024. Upon adoption of the Cycle 5 Guidelines, the Call for Projects will open. The LPP Grant funds require a one-to-one match. The Imperial County Region's estimated allocation amount for FY 2025/26 is \$ 524 million and \$520 million for FY2026/27 for a total of \$1,044 million. The Call for Projects for the CTC is anticipated to open on August 16, 2024, with a deadline of November 15, 2024.
- ICTC will coordinate with SCAG and through a consultant to provide technical assistance.

Mr. Aguirre stated that if anyone had any questions regarding the ICTC report to please forward them to staff. All other updates are on the agenda on page 36.

6. Caltrans Updates / Announcements:

Presented by Rob Owen, Caltrans

- Announcement about the upcoming webinars on October 10th, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- A Policy update has been made on the Single Audit Report Submission.
- Submission is required to CaltransFederalFundAward@dot.ca.gov, the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC), and the State Controller's Office (SCO). The FAC and SCO have

replaced their website locations for uploading the SAR packages effective immediately. These new locations are:

- FAC: https://secure.login.gov/
- SCO: <u>https://dep.sco.ca.gov/</u>
- Effective October 1, 2024, if the subrecipient expends less than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year ending after October 1, 2024, the LPA will need to submit an exemption letter to singleaudits@sco.ca.gov and CaltransFederalFundAward@dot.ca.gov. The email must be a PDF on letterhead that identifies the exempt Fiscal Year, certifies exemption reason, and contain a fiscal manager/officer signature.

7. SCAG Updates / Announcements:

(Presented by: David Salgado, SCAG)

• Mr. Salgado mentioned new toolbox Tuesday's events. For more information please contact David Salgado from SCAG.

8. Cities and County Planning / Public Works Updates:

• Mr. Campos from City of El Centro announced an invitation for the ASCE/APWA event on October 3rd at El Centro Public Library.

9. General Discussion / New Business

No new business was discussed.

Next TAC meeting will be on October 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom for the public and in person at the ICTC offices.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

3. LTA OVERVIEW

Presented by ICTC Staff



LTA OVERVIEW

OCTOBER 24, 2024





Table Of Content







Reporting Requirements





Introduction

The Imperial County Local Transportation Authority (ICLTA) is a regional agency for Imperial County that administers the half-cent sales tax known as Measure D. The Measure D was originally adopted by voters in 1989 for a twenty year period. In November 2008, 81% of the voters approved an extension of the local sales tax for an additional forty years. This is significant in that it was the voters within the community that realized the need for additional resources to ensure adequate transportation improvements.

The Board is committed to improving the Imperial County transportation system and regional economy by investing funding in infrastructure and providing our residents and businesses with easier access to jobs, schools, shopping, essential community services, and facilitate trade, transportation of goods and services throughout our region. To achieve our commitment, the Board works with each of the cities and the county to plan for and fund projects and services, and manage a wide range of programs and activities designed to keep Imperial County moving and continuing to improve our quality of life.

Imperial County Local Transportation Authority

Local Taxpayer Supervisory Committe

Measure D requires a Local Taxpayers Supervisory Oversight Committee which has been established to oversee the use of funds. The LTSC will review the fiscal audits to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance to the Expenditure Plan and ordinance. The LTSC's other mission is to provide positive, constructive advice to the Authority on how to improve implementation of the program for the benefit of Imperial County residents and to report any issues related to the use of the funds.



Joe Picazo *Retired County Deputy CEO -Budget* & Fiscal Tim Jones *Retired PW Director* Robertta Burns *Retired County CEO*



Purpose of Measure D

PUC sec. 132304 (b)







Improve Transportation Facilities Countywide

Funds shall be expended in accordance with the following priorities

Expenditure Plan section D4

- Street and Road Maintenance includes street sweeping expenses
- Maximum Administrative Cost : 5% of the expenditures for the agency





Priority # 1 To repair and rehabilitate existing roadways

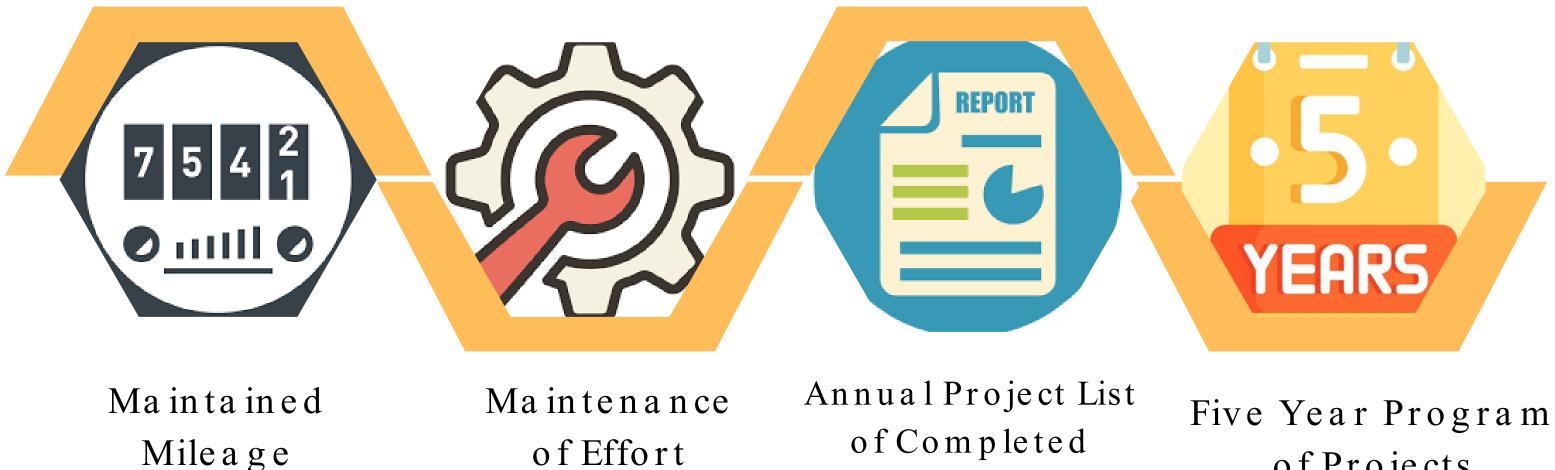


Priority # 2 To reduce congestion and improve safety



Priority # 3 To provide for the construction of needed transportation facilities





ofProjects Projects



Contact Us

Website: www.ltaimperial.com/ Address : 1503 N. Imperial Ave, Ste 104 Phone : 760-592-4494

Michelle Bastidas, Finance Department m ichellebastidas (a) im perialctc.org

David Aguirre, Executive Director davidaguirre@imperialctc.org





THANK YOU



4. ICTC Updates Presented by ICTC Staff



1503 N IMPERIAL AVE SUITE 104 EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2875 PHONE: (760) 592-4494 FAX: (760) 592-4410

Memorandum

Date:October 15, 2024To:ICTC Committee MembersFrom:David Aguirre, Executive DirectorRe:Executive Director's Report

The following is a summary of the Executive Director's Report for the ICTC Commission meeting on October 23, 2024.

 Active Transportation Program, Cycle 7: The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has released the Active Transportation Program (ATP) guidelines as of March 22, 2024. Approximately \$568 Million funding will be available for fiscal years 2025/26 through 2028/29 statewide. Applications were due to the CTC by June 17, 2024. Imperial County applicants were asked to submit a copy of their applications to the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC). For a copy of the adopted ATP guidelines please refer to Active Transportation Program Guidelines directly at: <u>https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/activetransportation-program/cycle7</u>.

In addition, only applicants that submit applications to the statewide ATP will be eligible for Regional ATP funds. Imperial County anticipates approximately \$1.1 million in ATP Cycle 7 Regional Funds will be available for all applicants that are not successful in the statewide call. There might also be additional funding available for quick build type projects. ICTC staff have developed an ATP factsheet for reference to both funding opportunities. Also, the Regional Active Transportation Plan adopted by ICTC is a valuable resource for agencies seeking funding through ATP Cycle 7. The document outlines priorities for each jurisdiction within Imperial County and was developed with significant input from the public. This input likely reflects the needs and preferences of the local community, making it a valuable tool for agencies seeking to align their grant proposals with the region's priorities. The ATP document is on the ICTC website at https://www.imperialctc.org/assets/documents/transportation-plans-and-studies/ICTC-ATP_Final-Document_2022.02.28_Reduced-Size.pdf

ICTC received correspondence indicating five (5) applications for the Imperial County Region. Applications were submitted by the City of El Centro, Imperial County Office of Education, Heber Public Utility District, City of Calipatria and City of Holtville.

As a result of the State of California's budget deficit the ATP program overall funding was reduced significantly. Funding was anticipated to be \$568 Million overall but was ultimately reduced to approximately \$168 Million. Also, because of the budget deficit and associated cuts, the anticipated Imperial County Regional Share was reduced to approximately \$300k. More information is to come pertaining to State and Regional Share awards.

2) 2024 Local Partnership Program, Cycle 5: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (Senate Bill 1) created the Local Partnership Program (LPP) as a program to reward and incentivize local or regional transportation agencies that have sought and received voter approval of taxes or that have imposed fees, which taxes or fees are dedicated solely for transportation improvements. The program is implemented by the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The CTC adopted the 2024 LPP Program Cycle 5 Guidelines on August 15-16, 2024. As a result of the adoption of the Cycle 5 Guidelines the Call for Projects has opened. The LPP Grant funds require a one-to-one match. The Imperial County Region's estimated allocation amount for FY 2025/26 is \$524million and \$520 million for FY2026/27 for a total of \$1,044 million. There is also a competitive program that is administered by the CTC. Guidelines for the program can be found at <u>https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/programs/senate-bill-1/2-bi-4-12-draft-2024-lpp-competitive-guidelines-red-line-v8.pdf</u>

In the past call for projects, ICTC staff proposed options to TAC members for the distribution of the LPP funds. The distribution calculations proposed were Option 1- Population and Maintained Mileage Based Distribution and Option 2- Using a Flat Distribution in addition to Population and Maintained Mileage Distributions. The proposed distribution is similar to the Local Transportation Authority (LTA) formula distribution.

On August 22, 2024, the TAC committee members reviewed and ultimately recommend Option 2 to be forwarded to the Commission for approval and to authorize ICTC to open the Call for Projects for the Local Partnership Formulaic Program Cycle 5. On August 28, 2024, the Commission approved TACs recommendation. The Competitive Call for Projects for the CTC opened on August 16, 2024, with a deadline of November 20, 2024. There is also a competitive call for projects that is open for submittal directly to the CTC.

- 3) Imperial County EV Charging Infrastructure Feasibility Study ICTC recently submitted a grant application under the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) to prepare a Countywide EV Charging Infrastructure Feasibility Study. The project will aim to identify strategic locations within the county for EV Charging Infrastructure. Caltrans is currently developing a similar project for locations along State facilities. Staff is currently working on the development of the Scope of Work for the project to proceed to the issuance of a Request for Proposals. Staff reviewed the proposed SOW with the ICTC TAC to obtain additional feedback.
- 4) ICTC/IVT Operations and Maintenance Facility: ICTC staff has engaged with the proposed property owner's representative about ICTC's interest in the property. ICTC has also communicated with the city of El Centro regarding action items that would need to take place to facilitate the goal of the project. ICTC has also communicated with grant agencies and our Zero Emission Bus Plan engineering consultant to develop a preliminary site plan of the proposed improvements. Next steps include executing a Letter of Intent with the property owner, continuing coordination with the city of El Centro, and to begin conducting the required environmental studies like a Phase 1 Site Assessment. ICTC will also continue to work on grant opportunities to fund the acquisition of the property. The preliminary site plan has been prepared and will be shared with the commission. ICTC was recently informed that it had received a funding commitment for the completion of the design/environmental phases of the project.
- 5) **Niland Bus Stop Implementation and Improvements:** ICTC staff has evaluated a few locations that may be suitable to integrate a potential bus stop. ICTC will continue to evaluate proposed locations and look for opportunities to potentially integrate the additional stop into its existing route.
- 6) **Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (CPFCDS):** ICTC recently received an award of 4.1 million dollars to be utilized towards the Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center Project. The project has already received awards from the RAISE, ATP and REAP 2.0 programs. We would like to thank our local, State and Federal Partners and Congressman Raul Ruiz for their continued support of the project, ICTC and the Imperial County. ICTC would also like to congratulate the cities of Imperial and El Centro, the County of Imperial and the Imperial Irrigation District on their awards. *ICTC will continue to work with all the awardees to ensure that their projects are programmed to enable the use of the project funding.*
- 7) Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) 2024 Call for Projects – FFY 2023-2024 to FFY 2025/2026: The STBG, CRP and CMAQ Call for Projects began on November 9, 2023. Applications were due on Friday, January 26, 2024, at the ICTC office. All agencies were provided guideline documentation were encouraged to submit potential projects.

Program	Applicants	Total Requested Applicants	Value by All
CMAQ	City of Imperial	\$388,0	000
STBG	City of Imperial, City of Brawley and City of El Centro	\$2,416,	000
CRP	ICTC – City of Imperial	\$1,083,	000

Due to the number of projects submitted, ICTC was able to evaluate all projects internally without utilizing the normal process which involves all cities participating in the scoring and ranking process. ICTC recommended projects to SCAG as part of the final submittal process. SCAG recently approved the list of projects anticipated to receiving funding. The project list is as follows:

Program	Applicants	TotalValueRequestedbyApplicants
CMAQ	City of Imperial – Aten Blvd Sidewalk Installation Phases 1 through 3	\$388,000
STBG	City of Imperial – P Street Rehab	\$519,000
STBG	City of El Centro – S. Imperial Avenue Utility Relocations	\$520,000
STBG	City of Brawley – Western Avenue Improvements	\$599,000
CRP	ICTC – EV Charger Study	\$150,000
CRP	City of Imperial – EV Charger Installation Phases 1 and 2	\$622,000

ICTC staff will be working with local agency staff and programming all approved projects in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). *Several projects have already started development for use of the grant funds.*

- 8) Imperial Valley Transit and Associated Services Operations and Maintenance Request for Proposals: ICTC's existing agreement with its current operator (Transdev) has concluded. As required by federal law, ICTC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to qualified transit operations and maintenance operators. The RFP was issued on February 16th, 2024. The new agreement will be for a 5-year fixed period with two additional singleyear options. ICTC received multiple responses to its RFP and ultimately ICTC awarded the agreement to Transdev, services continue to be provided and ICTC Staff is working with Transdev staff to strategically improve services.
- 9) Calexico East Port of Entry Bridge Widening Project: The Project proposes to widen the bridge over the All-American Canal at the U.S./Mexico border approximately 0.7 miles south of State Route (SR) 7. The project proposes to widen the existing structure by adding four lanes: Two New Northbound Auto Lanes and Two New Northbound Commercial Vehicle Lanes. In May 2018, Caltrans and ICTC received \$3,000,000 from the California Transportation Commission and the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) to complete the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED) for the project. In June 2018, Caltrans completed a Project Initiation Document (PID). In Fall of 2018, the PA/ED phase was initiated by Caltrans, technical studies for the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) document under Caltrans as the NEPA lead are in progress and is scheduled for completion in May 2020. In December 2018, ICTC was awarded \$20 million under the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD discretionary grant program to complete the Design-Build construction phase. ICTC subsequently received TCEP in the amount of \$7.4 Million for construction efforts. The design portion of the project is complete. The project construction is underway, and construction was anticipated to be completed at the beginning of 2023 but suffered delays due to the issuance of the presidential permit. Approximately 87% of construction efforts have been completed. The project was temporarily placed on hold for 6 months due to the issuance of the presidential permit to relocate the border fence. The Presidential Permit was received on July 7, 2023. On November 15, 2023, GSA, ICTC, and regional partners celebrated the completion

of Stage 1 of the project with a Ribbon Cutting celebration. ICTC Executive Director David Aguirre led the ceremony. Speakers included ICTC Chair Mike Goodsell, CBP Calexico Port Director Roque Caza, GSA Pacific Rim Region Public Buildings Service Deputy Regional Commissioner Amanda Sweeney, FHWA Senior Project Engineer Tay Dam, Caltrans District 11's South County and Trade Corridor Director Nikki Tiongco, CTC Commissioner Clarissa Reyes Falcon, and Head Counsel of the Mexican Consulate in Calexico Tarcisio Montes de Oca. The event concluded with the anticipated Ribbon Cutting followed by media opportunities. For additional information regarding this project visit the ICTC website at: https://www.imperialctc.org/projects/calexico-east-port-of-entry-bridge-expansion. Stage 3 of the project which consists of the completion of the improvements to the passenger vehicles lanes is now complete. Stage 4 of the project is now complete which consists of the reinstallation of new bolts under the existing bridge section was completed in early August 2024. The project construction efforts are now complete, and the project is now in closeout phase.

- 10) **Imperial Mexicali Binational Alliance (IMBA):** An IMBA meeting and strategic planning session was held in the City of Mexicali's Preparatoria y Universidad 16 de Septiembre, on January 16, 2024. At the strategic planning meeting, the committee developed the schedule for the year. The following are the remaining dates scheduled for IMBA in 2024.
 - November 14th (Strategic Planning and IMBA meetings) Imperial County
- 11) Imperial Valley Transit (IVT) FREE FARES PROGRAM: On August 7, 2020, the Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) announced the implementation of a Free Fares Program for various Imperial Valley Transit (IVT) services. Eligible services include IVT Fixed Route, IVT Circulators (Blue, Green and Gold Lines), IVT ACCESS and IVT RIDE (EL Centro, Imperial, Heber, Brawley, Calexico, Westshores). All passengers are eligible to benefit from the Free Fares Program. The fares are subsidized by a State of California grant and fare contributions to IVT RIDE passengers by the County of Imperial's Area Agency for the Aging (AAA). *ICTC was able to secure a new grant to provide free fares for all its transit programs. Due to the previous labor issues, ICTC implemented free fares for all services to assist with the inconvenience to the public. The labor issues have since been resolved but ICTC will continue to offer free fares to the public until further notice. ICTC was also able to secure a second grant to provide free fares for all services with the exception of the Calexico On Demand service. The free fares program ended in June with existing fares being re-implemented on July 1, 2024. A formal public hearing was held on March 27, 2024, prior to the Commission Meeting.*
- 12) **IVT Ride Potential Service Modifications:** IVT Ride is a dial-a-ride service that is available to seniors (55 years of age or older) and persons with disabilities in the communities of Calexico, Heber, El Centro, Imperial and Brawley. The service primarily operates in an intracity capacity with the exception of the communities of El Centro, Imperial and Heber and the Westshores service which travels to the city of Brawley or the Coachella Valley. The Westshores service is also available to the general public. Due to continuing declining ridership on all IVT Ride services, staff are exploring the possibility of modifying the service to provide trips to the general public but still provide priority to the senior population. The possible modification would enable the service to capture additional passengers and implement a microtransit like service in various communities. The possible modification would also require financial investment in technology and the development of a passenger web and mobile application. Staff anticipates bringing the further evaluated concept to the Management Committee and Commission in the coming months. Staff are also pursuing funding opportunities to facilitate the possible transition of the service. *Staff provided the Commission with a presentation on August 28, 2024, with further details. There was consensus to proceed with the software development and hardware acquisition. This item received approval to proceed to further development by the commission.*
- 13) Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC): A new Intermodal Transportation Center in the City of Calexico has been part of ICTC's long range transit planning. The new Calexico ITC will serve as a regional mobility hub that will accommodate bus bays for Imperial Valley Transit in addition to private bus companies, taxis and farm labor buses. ICTC previously received a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality federal program fund to complete the environmental and design plans of the new Calexico ITC. The environmental and design phase has been completed. Right of Way Acquisition is underway. ICTC has already acquired 2 of the required 3 properties for the project. The City of Calexico Council approved the commencement of the eminent domain process for two of the required properties. ICTC was recently awarded multiple grants to complete the required

construction efforts for the project. ICTC received grant awards from the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0, Active Transportation Program (ATP) and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Programs. Due to the anticipated State budget deficit, REAP 2.0 funding may be impacted. SCAG is working to ensure that the REAP 2.0 funding is not negatively impacted. ICTC is working with SCAG to identify possible alternative funding sources in the interim.

It is anticipated that the project will start construction in November/December 2024. The final set of contract documents are being prepared in anticipation of the construction bidding phase.

- 14) **Bus Stop Improvement Project:** Staff are working on developing a bus stop improvement project across multiple cities throughout the county. The project consists of installing various bus shelters and potentially other amenities. ICTC will be coordinating with the various cities to complete the development. *ICTC released the Request for Proposals for design services for the project. ICTC is looking to begin design services soon and have construction take place within FY23-24/FY24-25. The contract was awarded at the April Commission meeting. <i>ICTC has already participated in a kickoff meeting with the consultant and all of the effected agencies. The project design is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed in the next few months. ICTC obtained additional funding to incorporate additional bus stop locations. The new location designs are being incorporated into the overall project design.*
- 15) **Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis** Staff was able to secure grant funding to complete a Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA). The COA is a comprehensive evaluation of ICTC's existing transit services while also presenting evaluation findings and recommendations to further improvement of ICTC's existing public transit system. ICTC intends to evaluate all ICTC operated services in addition to incorporating an assessment of the feasibility of intercity passenger rail. *Staff recently released the Request for Proposals to the public and are anticipated to work towards a contract award in October 2024. The analysis is anticipated to take a year to complete.*
- 16) **EV Charger Installation Project:** Staff are working on developing an EV charger installation project across multiple cities throughout the county. ICTC will be coordinating with the various cities to complete the development. *It is anticipated that the project will be completed within FY23-24/FY24-25*.
- 17) **2022 Long Range Transportation Plan:** The ICTC in its capacity as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency is responsible for leading the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in Imperial County. The last update to the LRTP was conducted in 2013. ICTC staff completed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to prepare a full update of the Imperial County LRTP. Michael Baker International was the selected consultant. The process took around 18 months to complete, and included various outreach activities including several pop-up events, technical and stakeholder meetings. The final LRTP document adoption took place in the month of February 2024. The completed document and project listings are posted on the ICTC website for review and download, at https://www.imperialctc.org/publications-and-reports/transportation-plans-and-studies.
- 18) Forrester Road Project Study Report (PSR): Caltrans District 11 has been working on a project report on behalf of ICTC. The PSR will analyze safety and operation improvements along Forrester Road between I-8 and SR86/SR78. Other improvements include the Westmorland bypass. A meeting to discuss the draft PSR took place at the ICTC offices on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 9 a.m. Further updates to the PSR are anticipated along with additional meetings to discuss the updated PSR. *The updated PSR was recently completed, and the PSR was presented to the management committee and commission in September.*
- 19) Calexico Microtransit Service Calexico On Demand: ICTC submitted a grant application for the Clean Mobility Options (CMO) program in October of 2020. The grant application was submitted to provide a clean energy microtransit service in the city of Calexico. In early 2021, ICTC was notified of its grant award of \$1 Million to fund the pilot microtransit service. The microtransit service will operate as an on-demand service available to provide trips to the general public within the boundaries of the city of Calexico. The award required that ICTC fund and operate the service for a minimum of 4 years. ICTC partnered with Via Transportation, an experienced transportation operator to operate the service. ICTC and Via began the development of the project including service criteria, marketing information, and operational criteria. ICTC obtained approval from the

CMO program to commence the service. ICTC kicked off the service on January 9th, 2023, and intends to have a formal event to celebrate the kickoff of the service as soon as approval is received by the CMO. The service was free for all passengers until February 9th, 2023. Further information about the service can be viewed on the website: <u>https://city.ridewithvia.com/calexico-ondemand.</u> The service has averaged 180 passengers per day since the removal of the free fares and has been well received. ICTC has been working with CMO to obtain additional funding for the project. ICTC was awarded an additional \$500,000 to be utilized for operations of the service and additional service hours. The contract amendment with the operator was approved at the June 23, 2024, meeting. ICTC is finalizing the documentation for two additional grants to help support the project. ICTC also received additional funding to further continue the service beyond year two of operations.

20) State Route 86 (Northbound) Border Patrol Checkpoint: State Route 86 (Northbound) Border Patrol Checkpoint: In August 2017 following a year of coordination, Caltrans, the County of Imperial and ICTC met with CBP management and operations staff achieved consensus for a new conceptual alternative prepared by Caltrans. The LTA Board met on September 27, 2017; staff presented the Board with a fund request for \$1.3 million from the 5% Regional Highway Set-Aside from the Measure D allocations. A Consultant Agreement with AECOM for design and construction engineering was approved by the LTA on February 28, 2018. Following our ICTC Board meeting in late September 2020, ICTC has initiated a traffic study as required by Caltrans. Design work has been delayed due to Border Patrol's concern related to their ability to provide additional funding necessary to meet their operational requirements. On Wednesday, March 17, 2021, ICTC received confirmation from Border Patrol Headquarters in Washington D.C. that they wish to proceed with the original Canopy Design that is similar to Interstate 8 Pine Valley Checkpoint.

As discussed, and confirmed with Border Patrol, ICTC will only provide the remaining funds we had available (February 2021) of approximately \$1.3 million to complete the traffic study, 100% design plans, and construction of the canopy, lighting related to the canopy, and traffic related improvements required by Caltrans. Border Patrol is committed to paying for all other construction-related costs and Border Patrol will lead the construction contract. Border Patrol, Caltrans and ICTC are having weekly meetings toward completing design plans. CBP will be working with Caltrans to obtain environmental clearance once funding for construction is obtained. The improvement plans have been prepared in final draft form and have been submitted to Caltrans for review. Caltrans has provided review comments on the project improvement plans. ICTC will work with the design engineer to complete the required updates. Environmental studies and Caltrans submittal are pending submittal by CBP.

- 21) **Bus Stop along Cole Road west of Highway 111 in the City of Calexico:** *ICTC received a request through its Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing Process asking for the installation of bus stop improvements along Cole Road west of Highway 111 in the City of Calexico. ICTC and the City of Calexico were able to work together to have the bus shelter and associated infrastructure improvements installed. The bus stop is now open for public use.*
- 22) Clean California Bus Stop Improvement Project: Through Clean California Round 1 Funding, Caltrans was able to secure funding to complete bus stop and shelter improvements in the communities of Niland, Calipatria, Brawley and Holtville along various state routes. Caltrans, ICTC and the communities worked together to identify locations, in addition to reviewing possible secondary amenities such as trash enclosures. Construction activities for the new bus stop improvements began on March 13, 2023. The project bus stop improvements were completed in November/December 2023. The final set of bus stop improvements were completed in the city of Brawley in late March/early April 2024.
- 23) Funding for Phase II of the Calexico West Port of Entry: As previously noted, Congress authorized \$98 million for Phase 1. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) began construction for Phase 1 in December 2015 with completion now scheduled for July 2018. Phase 2A was awarded in the amount of \$191million and will include six additional northbound privately-owned vehicle (POV) inspection lanes, permanent southbound POV inspection, expanded secondary inspection and adding a pre-primary canopy, new administration building, and employee parking structure. *Funding for phase 2B was awarded in the amount of \$103.4 million. Work for phase 2B will include demolition of the old port building and construction of the new pedestrian building. The total estimated investment for the Calexico West POE improvements is \$416.2 million.*

Construction efforts for the West Port of Entry began in September 2022. GSA recently awarded a new contract for the construction efforts associated with the new pedestrian crossing facility.

24) **Regional Active Transportation Program**: ICTC staff has been working with staff from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in the development of the Active Transportation Program (ATP) guidelines. The ATP is funded from various federal and state funds including the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), State Highway Account, and Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S). The approved California Transportation Commission 2023 ATP (Cycle 6) program guidelines divide the funds into state and regional shares. State funds are available through a competitive application process. Applicants that are unsuccessful at the state level are considered for regional funds. Regional ATP funds are administered by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). SCAG is Imperial County's MPO. Per SCAG's 2023 ATP Regional Guidelines, county transportation commissions may assign up to 20 points to each statewide project application deemed consistent and meeting eligibility requirements. ICTC staff has completed the adoption process of the scoring methodology. ICTC staff received state scoring of ATP applications from Imperial County and presented staff recommendations to TAC members on December 15, 2022. Projects are underway at various stages by the agencies. Staff recommendations were approved at the January Commission meeting. See the table below for further information.

Regional ATP Projects				
Agency	Agency Project Name			
City of Calipatria	Bonita Place Pedestrian Safety Project	\$997,000		
City of El Centro	Pedestrian Improvement Project – various locations on Main Street	\$1,200,000		
ICTC	Pedestrian Improvements for the Calexico Intermodal Transportation Center	\$1,073,000		
	\$3,270,000			

- 25) Orchard Road & SR115 Traffic Concept Report: During the Commission meeting of September 2022, the Commission asked ICTC staff to follow up on the SR 115 Transportation Concept Report (TCR). ICTC staff has conducted meetings with Caltrans and County Public Works staff during the week of October 17th. ICTC staff in partnership with County and Caltrans staff are continuing discussions for short term options to deter trucks from using Orchard Road. The parties are also expected to discuss long term options as well. More information will be shared as discussions continue.
- 26) San Diego & Imperial Counties Sustainable Freight Strategy: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and ICTC received a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant for a Sustainable Freight Implementation Strategy for both counties. The goal with the strategy is to help transition the freight sector in San Diego and Imperial Counties to sustainable technologies, operations, infrastructure over the next 30 years. The strategy will systematically implement multimodal freight projects and policies, seek to pilot innovation technologies, create a workforce development toolkit, and identify potential funding sources for implementation. The area of study includes communities adjacent to major freight infrastructure in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Environmental justice areas, as defined by AB617, will be a particular focus and include the Portside Environmental Justice Communities, the International Border Community, and Calexico-El Centro-Heber corridor. This plan kicked off in February 2022 and is expected to be completed March 2024. Public engagement has been instrumental in the creation of this strategy, participants of Imperial County have included County Public Works department, Work Force Development, Comité Civico del Valle, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation, among others. Strategy outcomes are scheduled to be presented to SANDAG and ICTC groups as well as community organizations such as IMBA and AB617 meetings starting in June in Imperial County.
- 27) State Route 98 Widening from Ollie to Rockwood: As part of the Calexico West POE Expansion project, SR-98 and Cesar Chavez Boulevard were widened and improved to serve the expansion to the west. Caltrans' SR-98 work between VV Williams and Ollie Avenue was completed in March 2018, and the Cesar Chavez Blvd. Widening was completed in October 2019. Caltrans has completed the design and right of way phase for SR-98

Widening between Rockwood Avenue and Ollie Avenue. On June 24, 2020, CTC authorized construction funding. The total project cost is estimated at \$7 million using a combination of 2016 Earmark Repurposing, Demonstration, Traffic Congestion Relief, ICTC and local funds. The construction start date was delayed to due to environmental impacts and other utility projects in progress within the project area. Construction of the project began on August 6, 2021. The existing contractor of the project has been removed. Caltrans has secured a new temporary contractor to complete the project improvements from Ollie Avenue to Highway 111. Caltrans completed Phase 1 in late November. *Phase 2 of the project commenced on January 9th*, 2023. The portion of the project that consisted of the north side of Highway 98 between Highway 111 and Ollie Avenue has been completed. Caltrans recently completed the southeast/northeast side of Highway 98 between Highway 111 and Rockwood Avenue.

- 28) **State and Federal Local funding Obligations:** Projects programmed in programmed in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019/2020 were fully obligated according to Caltrans Local Assistance. Beginning October 1, 2020, agencies can move forward with request for authorization (RFA) for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBG) programmed in FFY 2020/2021. Other state funding also included in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) include the Active Transportation Program (ATP).
- 29) State Legislation for Transportation Funding SB 1 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA): According to the California League of Cities, overall local streets and roads allocations to cities and counties from the Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA) and the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) are projected to climb 14.8% in the current fiscal year, 2021-22, above last year, reflecting a rebound from peak impacts of the pandemic in 2020. For the budget year 2022-23, allocations are projected to grow 10.8% over the current year. This presumes that if the scheduled July 1 cost-of-living fuel tax increase is suspended, the Legislature will backfill any revenue impacts to local governments as leaders have pledged. The estimates are based on new statewide tax revenue estimates released by the California Department of Finance with the Governor's 2022-23 Proposed Budget. The county estimates were prepared in collaboration with the California State Association of Counties.

For RMRA remittance advice by cities visit: <u>https://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_payments_rmra_cities.html</u> For RMRA remittance advice by counties visit: <u>https://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_payments_rmra_counties.html</u>

30) Funding Opportunities:

- LPP Cycle 5 Call-for-Projects: LPP Cycle 5 is expected to include about \$72M/per year made up of Federal and State funding. The funding/programming years include the 25/26 and 26/27 fiscal years.
 - Schedule and major milestones can be found at: https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctcmedia/documents/programs/senate-bill-1/2-bi-4-12-draft-2024-lpp-competitive-guidelines-redline-v8.pdf
- For a complete list of California specific grant opportunities go to <u>https://www.grants.ca.gov/</u>.
 - Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 through FY 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Project Grants
- For a complete list of federal transportation grant opportunities go to <u>https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity</u>.

31) Meetings/trainings attended on behalf of ICTC Executive Director and staff:

- September 25, 2024- ICTC Commission Meeting at the ICTC office.
- September 26, 2024- Senior Apartment-Imperial. (attended by Priscilla Baca)
- September 26, 2024- ICTC TAC Meeting at the ICTC office.
- September 26, 2024- IVRMA TAC Meeting at the ICTC office.
- September 30, 2024- SAFE Annual Conference. (attended by Marlene Flores)
- October 2, 2024- SSTAC Meeting at the ICTC office.
- October 2, 2024- Knight Scope Call Box SHCC Discussion. (attended by Marlene Flores)
- October 3, 2024- Transdev/ICTC Meeting. (attended by David Aguirre and Gustavo Gomez)
- October 4, 2024- LTA Audit (FY23-24) Kickoff Via Zoom
- October 4, 2024- Cancer Resource Center of the Desert-MedTrans Presentation. (attended by Priscilla Baca)

- October 7, 2024- Inauguration-Binacional de Salud Calexico. (attended by Priscilla Baca)
- October 7, 2024- Knightscope-Imperial-QBR. (attended by David Aguirre, Marlene Flores, and Espy Avila)
- October 8, 2024- Office Hours: Training Resources. (attended by Michelle Bastidas)
- October 9, 2024- ICTC Management Meeting at the ICTC Office via Zoom.
- October 10, 2024- El Centro Senior Day Event. (attended by Gustavo Gomez and Priscilla Baca)
- October 11, 2024- Knightscope-Imperial-Monthly Call (attended by David Aguirre, Marlene Flores, and Espy Avila)
- October 15, 2024- IVC Student Health & Wellness Fair. (attended by Priscilla Baca)
- October 16, 2024- Transit/Admin Team Meeting. (attended by Espy Avila, Priscilla Baca, Cesar Beltran, and Maria Gomez)
- October 16, 2024- Transit Services at the ICTC Office
- October 17-18, 2024- CARL Session #2. (attended by Gustavo Gomez)
- October 17, 2024- Calexico Interviews. (attended by Cristi Lerma)

FFY24/25 Federal Funded Project Obligation List

					Federal Amount in FY	
Agency	Project ID	Project Title	Funding Type	Programming Phase	2024/25 (in 000's)	Obligation Status/ Note
Brawley	IMP220608	B Street from Eastern Avenue to Palm Avenue	STBG	CON	\$456	
Brawley	IMP230701	Main Street & 8th street Improvements	HSIP	CON	\$208	
Brawley	IMP230702	Dogwood Rd & Mead Rd. Roadway Improvements	HSIP	CON	\$692	
Brawley	IMP240703	Western Avenue Improvement Project (HWY 86 to Main Street)	STBG	CON	\$599	
Calipatria	IMP220603	South Brown Avenue Roadway and Pedestrian Facilities Improvement Project between Main Street/SR115 to Church Street.	CMAQ	CON	\$1,649	EPSP
Calipatria	IMP220610	Main Street Roadway Improvements Project between Lake Avenue and International Boulevard.	STBG	CON	\$298	EPSP
Calipatria	IMP230703	City of Calipatria - Bonita Place Pedestrian Safety Project	ATP MPO	CON	\$909	
El Centro	IMP220604	Imperial Ave. Traffic Signal Synchronization Project from Ocotillo Dr. to Main St.	CMAQ	CON	\$570	
El Centro	IMP220611	S. Imperial Avenue Extension Phase III from Danenberg Dr. to Manuel Ortiz Ave.	STBG	CON	\$2,195	
El Centro	IMP230704	City El Centro Pedestrian Improvement Project	ATP MPO	CON	\$1,200	
Holtville	IMP220612	West 9th Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Project Between Melon Road and Olive Avenue	CPFCDS	R/W	\$871	
Holtville	IMP220612	West 9th Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Project Between Melon Road and Olive Avenue	STBG	CON	\$587	EPSP
Imperial City	IMP240701	Aten Boulevard Sidewalk Installation Project Phase II, Between Myrtle Road and Old SR- 86	CMAQ	CON	\$112	
Imperial City	IMP240702	EV Chargin Station of EV Purchase, Phase II	CRP	CON	\$311	
Imperial County	IMP220607	Main Street Improvements from SR 111 to Memphis Ave. (South Side) and Isis Avenue Improvements from Main St. to Third St. in the Community of Niland	CMAQ	CON	\$1,163	
Imperial County	IMP220614	Bowker Road Rehabilitation from McCabe Rd. to Ross Rd.	STBG	CON	\$1,666	EPSP
Imperial County	IMPL507	Grouped Projects for Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction - HBP Program (projects are consistent with 40CFR part 93.126 exempt tables 2 categories - widening narrow pavements or reconstructing bridges (no additional travel lanes) - Toll Credits used	НВР	CON	\$5,279	
ICTC	IMP230401	Installation of EV Charging Stations at various locations in Imperial Valley	CRP	CON	\$403	
ICTC	IMP240603	Imperial County Region Electrick Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Feasibility Study	CRP	CON	\$150	

CON- Construction
PE- Design
R/W- Right of Way
RFA- Request for Authorization
CMAQ- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality
STBG- Surface Transportation Block Grant

5. Caltrans Updates/ Announcements

Presented by Caltrans Staff

November 27, 2024 – Deadline for California Transportation Commission (CTC) Requests

Please see link below to review the schedule of deadlines and prepare requests for California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval during the January 30-31, 2025, CTC meeting –

https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/financialprogramming/documents/2025-external-preparation-schedule.pdf

When possible, do not wait to submit requests, Caltrans District 11 must receive all documents <u>at</u> <u>least two months prior to the desired CTC meeting date</u>.

Wednesday, November 27, 2024, is the final deadline (for January 30-31, 2025, CTC meeting).

For assistance, please call the Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer, Bryan Ott: 619-985-5440.

Bridge Investment Program (BIP)

The Bridge Investment Program is a competitive, discretionary program that focuses on existing bridges to reduce the overall number of bridges in poor condition, or in fair condition at risk of falling into poor condition.

The deadlines for applications to be submitted via *Grants.gov* are:

Fiscal Year BIP Funding	Planning Application Deadline	Bridge Project Application Deadline
FY 2025	October 1, 2024	November 1, 2024
FY 2026	October 1, 2025	November 1, 2025

The deadline for Large Bridge Project Grant Applications to be uploaded to *Grants.gov* is August 1, 2025, for consideration of FY 2026 funds.

Further details are available at this link – *BIP* - *Funding Programs* - *Management and Preservation* - *Bridges* & *Structures* - *Federal Highway Administration (dot.gov)*

U.S. Department of Transportation Grant Opportunities

The USDOT website provides a DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard, which is a great tool that your local agency can use to find grant opportunities in various areas such as: Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART), Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs, just to name a few. In the link provided below, you can filter for your agency specifics to narrow down grant opportunities. Directions, deadlines, and links to apply are here – <u>https://www.transportation.gov/grants</u>

In partnership with

FEDERAL GRANTS 101 WEBINAR SERIES

SESSION 3: ALL ABOUT BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS

Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



Need a more competitive Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) to seek federal discretionary funding?

Attend this session to learn from federal and state experts on how to navigate the BCA process, methodologies, best practices, guidance, and resources.

Presenters:

Jordan Riesenberg, U.S. Department of Transportation Ryan Endorf, U.S. Department of Transportation Gilberto Chambers, Caltrans Thuy Nguyen, Caltrans









Questions? Contact federal-liaison@dot.ca.gov.

DISTRICT 11 LOCAL ASSISTANCE ENGINEER (DLAE) UPDATE

Key Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

To provide stakeholders with more visibility on upcoming funding opportunities, DOT is publishing a list of anticipated dates for upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for key programs. This list is not comprehensive and will be updated periodically with additional programs and revised dates as appropriate.

A few of the key programs and their deadlines:

* Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
1) FY 2025: 1/13/2025
2) FY 2026: 1/13/2026

Further details are available at this link – Key Notices of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation

November 21, 2024 – Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Deadline

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants), announced via a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), for approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. Applications are now open, which the EPA is accepting on a rolling basis, with grant technical assistance available to applicants. Final deadline to apply is **November 21, 2024**.

https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community- change- grants-program

November 25, 2024 – FHWA Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Funding Deadline

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a Low-Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This NOFO is open to eligible local governments, political subdivisions of a State, Federally recognized tribes, Federal Land Management Agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function. The LCTM Program aims to increase use of materials that have "substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions" as defined by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information on the LCTM Program, please visit https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/lowcarbon

NOFO applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by November 25, 2024, at 8:59 pm PT.

<u>Title VI Nondiscrimination Program</u>

Local agencies must comply with all Title VI requirements (*LAPM* Section 9.2). Title VI compliance is subject to review at any time.

https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/local-civil-compliance/title-vi



Upcoming Webinar

• Local Assistance Day Statewide Webinar - October 30, 2024 - 8:30 - 11:30 am

Caltrans Local Assistance



Local Assistance Equipment Loan Program



6. SCAG Updates

Presented by SCAG Staff



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 **T:** (213) 236–1800 www.scag.ca.gov

Memorandum

Re:	Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) Report
From:	David Salgado, Government Affairs Officer (GAO)
To:	ICTC Committee and Management Meeting
Date:	October 9, 2024

The following is a summary of the SCAG Executive Director's Report and/or Federal and State Legislature Staff Report for the Imperial County Transportation Commission Management Committee and Regular Commission meeting for the month of OCTOBER 2024.

1. SCAG Tours the Imperial County on Mobile Workshop

On Thursday September 26th and Friday September 27th SCAG hosted President Curt Hagman and various Regional Councilmembers from throughout the region as part of the Imperial County Mobile Tour. SCAG attended the California League of Cities Imperial County Division Dinner on Thursday evening where SCAG President Curt Hagman reinforced his and SCAG's commitment to collaborating with Imperial County and our regional partners. The dinner was attended by many local elected officials and representatives from the County of Imperial.

On Friday September 27 SCAG coordinated a tour with the County of Imperial's Natural Resources Office to highlight Imperial Counties ongoing efforts to develop "lithium valley." The Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) around the Salton Sea has been identified as one of the most lithium rich areas on the planet with enough lithium to provide one electric vehicle battery for every household in the country. Imperial County is working with various industry sectors, academia, and government stakeholders and partners to ensure the potential industry cluster is hyper focused on creating a comprehensive development opportunity to spur strong economic growth and competitive advantage in the region. The tour included stops at the various areas around the KGRA to highlight this opportunity. The tour included participation from Imperial County local elected officials, a number of SCAG Regional Council Members and other local stakeholders. The tour concluded with a lunch at the Brawley Stockmens Club hosted by Regional Councilmember and Imperial County Board of Supervisors Chairman Luis Plancarte.

2. 2024 Southern California Demographic Workshop Navigates the 'New Growth Reality'

More than 460 people attended the 2024 Southern California Demographic Workshop on Sept. 24 for a fact-based discussion about how to plan for the future of Southern California as demographic trends



diverge from the rapid population growth of past decades. The 35th annual event was hosted by SCAG and the USC Price School of Public Policy.

Highlights of the 2024 Southern California Demographic Workshop included the presentation and publication of a <u>new report by SCAG demographers</u> providing insight into American Community Survey data released earlier in September by the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year data released on Sept. 12, 2024, provide comprehensive data on Southern California's social, demographic, economic, and housing conditions, capturing the region's recovery following the pandemic.

The 2023 ACS data shows that real household income growth in Southern California outpaced national growth over the past year and last decade, reflecting long-term economic well-being for the region's median household. The new ACS data also reveal population growth stabilizing in Southern California—counter to the prevailing media narrative about the decline of California's population—which will require new thinking from local and regional planners to expand the economy and improve quality of life for all Southern Californians.

The event also included two panels; keynote speaker Bill Fulton, FAICP; and a series of roundtables for participants to consider how the demographic trends of the past decade, including the historic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, will impact the economic realities of the region and day-to-day considerations like mobility and public health.

3. SCAG PUBLISHES REPORT AND MODEL ORDINACE FOR BROADBAND PERMIT STREAMLINING

Insufficient broadband infrastructure and permitting challenges continue to complicate efforts to bridge the digital divide. Complex processes, high resource demands, and inconsistent fees impede infrastructure deployment. Lengthy permitting processes increase costs and lead to project delays, which pass costs onto consumers.

To help resolve these challenges, SCAG, in collaboration with the San Diego Association of Governments and with funding from the California Emerging Technology Fund, developed a "<u>Broadband Permit</u> <u>Streamlining Report</u>" and "<u>Broadband Permit Streamlining Model Ordinance</u>." The report outlines key challenges and complexities involved in both wireless and wireline broadband deployment. SCAG created a model ordinance based on the report's findings to offer local jurisdictions options for accelerating permitting processes. Jurisdictions can use this ordinance as a template, either adopting it in full or selecting specific sections to streamline their existing broadband permit processes.



The report and ordinance are available on the SCAG website. For more information regarding the "Broadband Permit Streamlining Report" and "Broadband Permit Streamlining Model Ordinance," please contact Roland Ok at ok@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236-1819.

4. Go Human Program Completes Summer Traffic Safety Activities

Coinciding with California Pedestrian Safety Month in September, SCAG's *Go Human* program completed traffic safety and community engagement projects that provided approximately \$500,000 in direct support to more than 40 local partners in more than 30 jurisdictions in the region.

The 2024 Community Streets Grant Program awarded more than \$430,000 to 15 community-based organizations in all six counties of the region. Awardees distributed more than 2,200 safety materials, including helmets and bike lights; held 25 capacity-building workshops; collected more than 400 surveys; and produced 23 videos. Since 2018, *Go Human*'s community grants program has distributed more than \$1.7 million to approximately 130 traffic safety projects through six funding rounds.

SCAG expanded the reach of the *Go Human* traffic safety advertisement campaign by distributing 1,600 co-branded safety advertisements to 14 local partners. SCAG's partners utilized this resource to create local traffic safety advertising campaigns, resulting in an estimated 10 million impressions. In preparation for the 10th year of *Go Human* programming in 2025, SCAG also conducted research to inform content update recommendations. These research activities collected data from 25 interviews, more than 600 surveys, and 12 focus groups.

SCAG *Go Human* supported 11 complete streets pop-up demonstrations using its Kit of Parts Lending Library, reaching more than 5,000 people. SCAG additionally provided four sponsorships to support local traffic safety events and co-developed educational materials with 11 community traffic safety experts.

5. SCAG Participates in Mobility 21

SCAG Chief Operating Officer Darin Chidsey and Chief Planning Officer Sarah Jepson represented the agency at the annual Mobility 21 Summit, participating in panel discussions related to federal and state funding, and the human equation in transportation innovation. Both highlighted recent SCAG funding and projects, such as the Safe Streets and Roads 4 All grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the \$50 million funding award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Last Mile Freight Program, the *Go Human* program, and current and future work on regional collaboration for the LA28 Olympics. Several SCAG staff, Regional Council members, and policy committee members were also in attendance.