

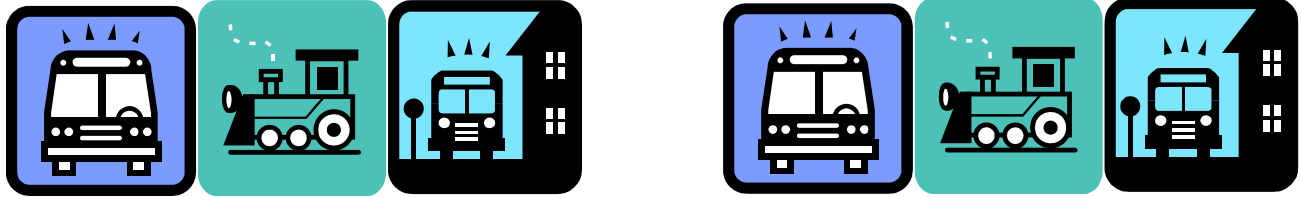
THE COORDINATOR

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\$2.1 Million of Proposition 1B Transit Funds Awarded!!!

Of the \$2.4M in Prop.1B funding available for allocation this year, the SLOCOG Board recently awarded \$2.1M for 7 transit-related projects and improvements. In all, 17 project applications were submitted during the first funding cycle. Due to a State programming criterion requiring the project sponsor to “complete the project or a minimum operable segment” within 3 years, only those projects that were considered “ready to go” were recommended for funding. The following projects were approved:

1. RTA/Ride-On Maintenance Facility.....	\$738,399
2. SLO Train Station Improvements.....	\$60,000
3. Ride-On Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's).....	\$50,000
4. Paso Multi-Modal Center Restrooms.....	\$158,765
5. Two SLO Transit Coaches.....	\$683,601
6. Bus Stop Improvements (S. Atascadero).....	\$60,000
7. One RTA Transit Coach.....	\$375,000

Four projects will be be reconsidered in April, once funding from the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and Rural Transportation Fund (RTF) are known. These projects include:

- One Morro Bay Trolley
- Atascadero Transit Center
- SCAT Bus Stop Improvements
- Los Berros/Thompson Rd. Park-and-Ride

Staff is currently distributing and compiling Allocation Request forms from successful project applicants. All forms are due by December 28th in order to receive Cycle #1 funding. For additional information, please contact Tim Gillham at 781-1520 or tgillham@slocog.org.



Recent Transit Projects Programmed for FY 2007/08

In December, the Board approved the region's programming of Federal transit funds at more than \$2.4 Million in three funding categories:

- Section 5307 - \$617K in North County Urbanized Area (Atascadero-Paso Robles-Templeton)
- Section 5307 - Over \$1.3M in Central Urbanized Area (San Luis Obispo) and
- Section 5311 - \$500K regional funds under rural transit assistance (non-urban)

In each cycle, the FTA grant funds must first be programmed by the region, then amended into the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), itself forwarded to Caltrans and Federal agencies for their approvals-so the grantees can apply for grant funds and implement local transit projects. This December 2007 action covers the 2006 FTIP formal amendment #5, which combines the twelve projects given below:

1) SLO Transit-Central Area

- Bus and Trolley Local Operations-\$450,000
- Coach replacement (one bus)- \$300,000
- Particulate traps-\$127,000
- Capitalized maintenance-\$320,000
- Rehabilitate City maintenance yard-\$144,000
- Replace two Runabout vans-\$110,000 (RTA capital project)

2) North County Area

- Paso Robles Local Operations-\$258,000
- RTA Operations (Route 9)-\$167,000
- Atascadero Local Operations-\$185,000
- North County Shuttle stops-lighting-(Atascadero Transit)-\$6,000

3) Rural Areas (Countywide)

- Regional Transit Authority (rural route legs and Runabout)-Operations-\$497,000

Near \$500,000 Toward Agricultural Vanpools in the Region

Caltrans recently awarded a \$456,997 grant in state monies to SLOCOG for the phased implementation of a new *Vanpool Program for Agricultural Workers* to be operated by Ride-On Transportation. Ride-On Transportation and SLOCOG jointly applied for the grant to purchase eight 15-passenger vans and support specialized marketing and outreach to the agricultural community. The funds come from the 2006 one-time appropriation of \$20 M from the Public Transportation Account (PTA) to be spent by 2010.

- In the 1st cycle, \$5.3 Million was awarded via planning grants (Mendocino County, Santa Maria Area, and Ventura County) and the first service grant by the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (\$5 M over 3 years with multiple counties covered).
- In the 2nd cycle, four regions received new planning grants (Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Monterey Bay and Napa); another five regions received service implementation grants-South Monterey County, North Santa Barbara County, plus San Luis Obispo, Ventura and Kings Counties. (A total of \$10 Million over 2 years).

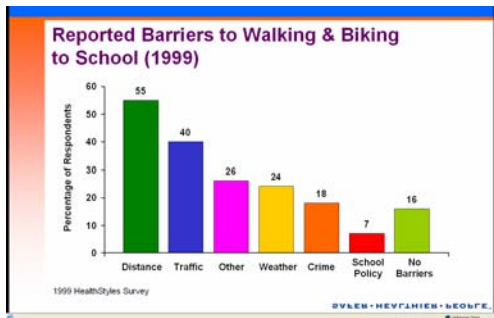
The new program involves participation by SLOCOG and SLO Regional Rideshare for grant administration and targeted outreach among growers, agricultural labor organizations and service providers in rural areas. Ride-On will model this project after the very successful Kings County program and coordinate its operations with the North Santa Barbara CTSA starting nine agricultural vanpools in the Santa Maria Valley. Similarly the King City and Greenfield (South Monterey County) communities are starting agricultural vanpools with trips into Paso Robles. Ride-On currently provides 24 vanpools for commuters in San Luis Obispo County. The new program differs as follows:

- Ride-On and SLO Regional Rideshare/SLOCOG will perform outreach to the agricultural sector (a new market for transportation providers calling for a tailored approach)
- Ride-On, SLO Regional Rideshare and the proposed Stakeholders Committee will build strong community ties to keep the program financially viable past 2010
- SLOCOG will administer the grant funding and monitor progress on performance-such as participation levels on active vans, level of coordination with adjacent counties, coverage of the program and number of new vans at development stage.

Initial outreach for the program should begin in March 2008 with the first vanpools on the road by July 2008. For more information on the project development contact Jessica Berry at 805-781-1126 or jberry@slocog.org; for outreach contact Lisa Quinn at 805-781-4462 or lquinn@rideshare.org

Commuter Corner Safe Routes to School Shifts Into A Higher Gear

Over the last generation there has been a major decrease in the number of children walking and bicycling to school. In 1969, 42% of school age children walked to school daily, but by 2001 that number had decreased to only 16%. This decline has resulted in unintended and far-reaching consequences for both our children's lives and our own, with impacts related to traffic congestion, air quality, and fitness level.



The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is a national and international movement to enable and encourage elementary and middle school children to walk and bicycle to school. Through the use of the "5 Es" (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation), programs and projects are being developed to create safe, appealing environments for walking and biking to school that will encourage healthy and active lifestyles from an early age. Safe Routes to School programs also enrich the quality of children's lives and benefit communities by implementing projects and activities to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and enhance neighborhood safety where they are started. Successful SRTS programs have included Walking and Rolling School Buses, classroom activities and participant incentives, and infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalks and bicycle paths.

Since the fall of 2006, SLO Regional Rideshare has offered four SRTS program workshops to over 40 community members in San Luis Obispo County, two in the City of San Luis Obispo and two in Grover Beach in the South County. The sessions, which consisted of a history of Safe Routes to School, components of the program including the "5 Es" and both nationwide and local case studies. At the most recent workshop held in October attendees learned about state and federal grant opportunities, and a SLOCOG grant (\$350,000), which will be available to those participating in the workshops and have demonstrated commitment to the SRTS program. The funding level for these calls for projects is expected to be approximately \$98.5 million collectively (\$52 million at the state level, \$46 million nationally, and \$350,000 at the local level). Grant applications for the State program were due on November 16, 2007, and the Federal call for projects is expected in the next month. The SLOCOG grant will follow in the spring or summer of 2008, following announcements of funding from the State and Federal programs.

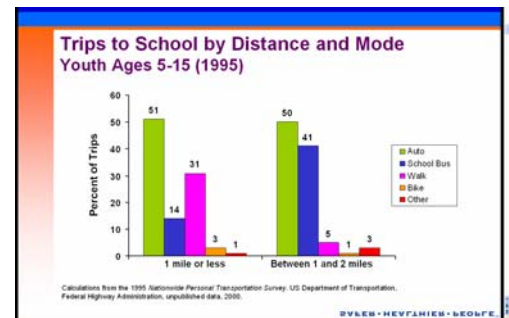
Last year two projects received Federal SRTS funding, including:

- City of San Luis Obispo, awarded \$798,600 for a Class I multi-use pathway connecting Oceanaire Drive and Vista Lago across Perfumo Creek
- San Luis Obispo County, awarded \$605,000 for Nipomo Elementary School Safe Routes to School Improvements

The City of San Luis Obispo and the County were also awarded State grant money for two projects, including \$173,000 for improvements to Los Osos Valley Road adjacent to Laguna Middle School property, and \$320,000 for improvements to Old Country Road from Florence Ave. to Vineyard to improve access to Templeton Elementary School, Middle School and High School.

The State is currently reviewing project proposals for this year's grant funding; including eight projects within six jurisdictions in San Luis Obispo County. Project proposals include:

- 1) **City of Pismo Beach requested \$198,000** (Shell Beach Elementary School)
- 2) **City of Arroyo Grande requested \$308,000** (Paulding Middle School)
- 3) **San Luis Obispo County requested \$539,000** (Lillian Larsen Elementary School in the Community of San Miguel)
- 4) **City of San Luis Obispo requested \$255,172** (San Luis Obispo High, Hawthorne Elementary, and Sinsheimer Elementary Schools)
- 5) **City of Grover Beach requested**
 - a) **\$159,371** (Grover Heights Elementary School), and
 - b) **\$279,635** (Grover Beach Elementary School)
- 6) **City of Atascadero requested**
 - a) **\$286,000** (Atascadero High School) and,
 - b) **\$426,000** (San Gabriel Elementary School)



SLO Regional Rideshare Bicycle Programs Coordinator is continuing to follow up with schools and local agencies to help them identify and establish champions in each area. Staff is able to assist individual schools at multiple levels. SLO Regional Rideshare motivates and organizes school programs by providing the following free services to schools:

- bike assemblies;
- presentations to PTA's and school principals;
- maps to identify walking and biking routes as well as drop-off sites; and
- supplies (reflective vests and biking and walking safety material e.g. books, videos.

Transportation Funding Update

The SLOCOG Board has been briefed a number of times this fiscal year regarding the status of transportation funding on the upcoming 2008 transportation funding cycle. For this biennial funding cycle, revised funding targets as shown in the table below were presented to the SLOCOG Board at their December meeting. In February the Board will recommend funding transportation projects that continue and/or initiate the region's high priority projects as identified in SLOCOG's Regional Transportation Plan's three major modal programs (Highway, Streets, and Roads, Nonmotorized, and Public Transportation).

A number of statewide issues have affected the programming targets since they were first drafted in August, including the late adoption of the State Budget, redirection of Public Transportation Account funds out of the STIP as a result of the recent passage of SB 717, and the final publishing of the county fund estimates in late October. The net result is reductions in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding targets. The STIP program is the primary source of funding for major highway and road improvements.

Due to the increasing demands on limited revenues, the SLOCOG Board concluded that projects seeking additional or new funding must meet very basic threshold criteria. Candidate projects such as the Los Osos Valley Rd./ Interchange or Brisco Rd/101 IC must have a Draft Project Report circulated for public review by December 15th. If not, SLOCOG may consider "risk" programming in February if the sponsoring agency/Caltrans are able to provide assurances by January 31st that the candidate project's environmental document and draft project report is near circulation.

Lastly, a project finance plan will be required prior to programming in February by the sponsoring agency to demonstrate a commitment of local funding to the project. In January, the SLOCOG Board will receive an information only presentation item by staff on major interchange projects seeking funding.

Funding Category	STIP Cycle	COG / CTC ADOPTION	FY RANGE	TARGET
• System Efficiency Strategies (Demand Management Improvements)	08 STIP	Feb-08 / Jun-08	08/09 - 12/13	\$ 1,200,000
• Highway, Streets & Roads (HSR)	08 STIP	Feb-08 / Jun-08	08/09 – 09/10	\$ 7,996,000
	08 STIP	Feb-08 / Jun-08	11/12 – 12/13	\$ 12,274,000
	10 STIP	Feb-08 / Jun-08	13/14 -15/16	\$14M to \$28M
Totals for HSR Program:				Low (\$20.3M) likely ; High w/ 2010 Advance (\$34 to 48M) less likely
• Non Motorized/Enhancements (NM) <i>(includes targets for SR2S, Open Space, Key Class I imps., Urban Greening)</i>	06 STIP(A)	Feb-08 / Jun-08	9/10-11/12	\$1,750,000
	08 STIP	Feb-08 / Jun-08	9/10-13/14	\$ 2,380,000
• Public Transportation (PT)	08 STIP	See Prop 1B transit article		N/A



Planners on the Move

Philip Chu, a SLOCOG employee for 8 years, left SLOCOG for greener pastures at San Bernardino Associated Governments as a Transportation Planning and Programming Analyst. During the past 8 years, Philip have worked on various different projects including the development of the Regional Traffic Model, the Call Box Program and as the South County Regional Planner.

Richard Rojas, a SLOCOG employee for 2 years, left SLOCOG and is relocating to City of Henderson in Nevada as a City Planner with the Long Range Planning Division. Richard have been working primarily on the Community 2050 project for the past 2 years.

We wish them well in their endeavors and they will be missed here at SLOCOG.

Board Endorses Direction of Community 2050

SLOCOG's role in providing a forum to chart a course for the region is both the challenge and charge of the *Community 2050 Blueprint*. *Community 2050* can delineate a direction for the region, but it does not control local land use decisions. The program is designed to establish an ongoing cooperative means for integrating multi-agency efforts to address three key areas that we call - place, prosperity and people.

At the November Meeting, the SLOCOG Board endorsed some key program elements of the *Community 2050 Blueprint* that will direct priorities and work efforts for the coming months. These included the:

- Core Values
- Vision
- Guiding Principles
- Objectives
- Regional Growth Strategy

The Board also endorsed the preparation of a draft *Community 2050 Blueprint* and reviewing program elements with member agency Councils and Boards for consideration in April 2008. In addition, staff will begin to "operationalize" *Community 2050* efforts by undertaking the following actions to address the primary topics discussed by the Steering Committees:

1) Focus on Urbanized Areas

Meet with CSDs, Cities, and County to identify priority areas, key infrastructure projects and identify estimated costs and implementation strategies. Prioritize transportation infrastructure investments in areas consistent with the Growth Strategy (see transportation discussion of this report).

2) Discourage Development in Rural and Natural Areas

Support discouraging development in agricultural, rural and natural areas in the current update of the County of San Luis Obispo Conservation, Ag/Open Space elements of the County General Plan.

3) Water issues

Seek funding to co-sponsor a countywide forum regarding development of an Integrated Water Master Plan and integrate results into the *Community 2050 Blueprint*.

4) Energy issues

Co-sponsor countywide forum regarding an integrated approach to energy in conjunction with APCD. Seek funding for continued evaluations subject to SLOCOG Board direction.

5) Infrastructure Maintenance & Development

Inventory capitol project needs of member agencies in conjunction with SLOCOG's Planning Directors, Technical Transportation Advisory Committee, and Administrator's Committee.

6) Communication / Coordination Emphasis

Sponsor a Countywide all cities/County session in spring of 2008 to report on trends and indicators and take collective action on the *Community 2050 Regional Blueprint*.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



**FROM:
SLOCOG STAFF**





Down the Road....

The next scheduled meeting of the SLOCOG Board will be held in the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers Wednesday, January 9th, 2008. The Board meetings are broadcast live and replayed on Channel 21 (Charter communications Cable TV)

Individuals wishing accessibility accommodations at this meeting, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), may request such accommodations to aid hearing, visual, or mobility impairment by contacting SLOCOG offices at 781-4219. -Please note that 48 hours advance notice will be necessary to honor your request.

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an area wide planning and programming agency for issues of area wide concern. SLOCOG is also the federal-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), and the Census Data Affiliate (CDA) for the San Luis Obispo region. Member Agencies and their designated representatives are listed below:

President – James Patterson, District 5 Supervisor
Vice President – John Shoals, Grover Beach Council member

Paso Robles – Fred Strong, Council member
Atascadero – Tom O'Malley, Council member
Arroyo Grande – Tony Ferrara, Mayor
Pismo Beach – Mary Ann Reiss, Mayor
Morro Bay – Janice Peters, Mayor
Ex-Officio, Richard Krumholz –Director, Caltrans District 5

San Luis Obispo – Dave Romero, Mayor
District 1 Supervisor – Harry Ovitt
District 2 Supervisor – Bruce Gibson
District 3 Supervisor – Jerry Lenthall
District 4 Supervisor – Katcho Achadjian
Executive Director – Ronald De Carli



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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