



## Memorandum

**DATE:** 06.29.22  
**TO:** Prospective San Francisco Project Sponsors  
**FROM:** Aprile Smith - Senior Transportation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** One Bay Area Grant Cycle 3 County Call for Projects

### **APPLICATIONS DUE BY 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) is pleased to announce a call for projects for \$52,855,600 through the One Bay Area Grant Cycle 3 (OBAG 3) County Program for San Francisco over the next four years (Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 to FY 2025/26). We are also using this solicitation to inform the reprogramming of \$1,021,021 in Prop AA vehicle registration fee funds.

In January 2022, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted the OBAG Cycle 3 County & Local Program Call for Projects Guidelines (Attachment 1). Through the OBAG County program, MTC directs federal funding to projects and programs that implement Plan Bay Area, with particular focus on projects that support Priority Development Areas (PDAs) - places near public transit planned for new homes, jobs, and community amenities (see Attachment 2 for a map of San Francisco PDAs). As the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for San Francisco, the Transportation Authority is responsible for identifying San Francisco's OBAG 3 county priorities and submitting them to MTC by September 30<sup>th</sup>. MTC staff will evaluate the CMA project nominations using regional criteria and recommend a subset of projects from the regionwide candidate pool to their Commission in January 2023.

The Prop AA funds that are available for reprogramming are from the Transit Reliability and Mobility Improvements category and can fund the design or implementation of improvements such as transit stop improvements, transit signal priority, travel information improvements, parking management pilots, and transportation demand management.

This memo contains all the relevant information for submitting an application to the Transportation Authority for OBAG 3. The remaining sections of this memorandum are organized as follows:

1. Introduction



2. Call for Projects Schedule
3. Available Funds and Eligible Projects and Project Sponsors
4. Application Process
5. Screening and Prioritization Criteria
6. Monitoring and Support
7. For More Information

## **2. CALL FOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE**

May 10, 2022	Transportation Authority Board approves SF OBAG 3 Framework on its first reading.
May 12, 2022	Transportation Authority issues OBAG 3 Call for Projects
May 19, 2022 10:30 a.m.	Transportation Authority Technical Working Group Meeting Workshop for potential applicants
May 24, 2022	Transportation Authority Board anticipated final approval of OBAG 3 County Framework
July 1, 2022 by 5 p.m.	Applications due to the Transportation Authority
August 18, 2022	Transportation Authority Technical Working Group Meeting Review draft OBAG 3 staff recommendation
September 7, 2022	Transportation Authority Community Advisory Committee - ACTION OBAG 3 San Francisco Project Nominations
September 13, 2022	Transportation Authority Board - PRELIMINARY ACTION OBAG 3 San Francisco Project Nominations
September 27, 2022	Transportation Authority Board - FINAL ACTION OBAG 3 San Francisco Project Nominations
September 30, 2022	Transportation Authority submits OBAG 3 San Francisco Project Nominations to MTC for evaluation
January 2023	MTC approves OBAG 3 projects and programs OBAG 3 funds



\*Transportation Authority Board and Community Advisory Committee meeting dates and materials are subject to change. Please visit <http://www.sfcta.org/meetings> for the most up to date information.

### **3. AVAILABLE FUNDS AND ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND PROJECT SPONSORS**

This section provides information on the \$52,855,600 in OBAG 3 and \$1,021,021 in Prop AA funds available through this call for projects.

**OBAG 3.** As part of the OBAG 3 County Program, MTC set nomination targets for each county based on a formula that considers population and housing (Regional Housing Need Allocation, production, and additional weight based on affordability). To ensure a sufficient pool of project nominations, MTC is soliciting nominations for 120% of the available funding capacity for the County Program. With a total of \$340 million available for programming regionwide, the nomination target for the nine Bay Area counties totals \$408 million. San Francisco’s estimated share of the OBAG 3 County Program is 15.2% or \$62.138 million for our 120% target. Per San Francisco’s OBAG 3 County Program Framework, we have \$52,855,600 in OBAG 3 funds available for the San Francisco call for projects as summarized in Table 1 below. The federal OBAG funds are available to program in FYs 2022/23 through 2025/26.

**Table 1. San Francisco OBAG 3 County Program Funding Framework Distribution**

CMA Planning	\$2,200,000
Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Program	\$7,082,400
<b>Competitive Call for Projects</b>	<b>\$52,855,600</b>
Total Project Nomination Target (120%)	\$62,138,000

The OBAG 3 County Program is funded with federal Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds, which will be assigned to specific projects by MTC as part of their project selection process. The funds may be programmed in FY 2022/23 to FY 2025/26, conditioned upon the availability of federal apportionment and obligation authority. We will work with MTC and project sponsors to match the most fitting sources with selected projects and will keep project sponsors updated of any changes in federal funding availability.



For OBAG 3 County Program, the minimum grant amount is \$500,000 and there is no maximum grant amount beyond that which fits within the funds available. The local match is 11.47% in committed or programmed funds for the requested phase. For capital projects, sponsors may demonstrate fully funding the pre-construction phases (e.g. project development, environmental or design) with local funds and claim toll credits in lieu of a match for the construction phase. Once programmed in the federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the funds must be obligated by FHWA or transferred to the Federal Transit Administration within the federal fiscal year the funds are programmed in the TIP. All OBAG 3 funds must be obligated no later than January 31, 2027.

Bay Area cities, counties, transit agencies, federally-recognized Tribal governments, and CMAs are eligible to apply (see Attachment 1 for additional sponsor requirements). Eligible project types include but are not limited to transit expansion, reliability, and access improvements; safety, streetscape, and complete streets improvements; transportation demand management programs including education and outreach, and mobility hub planning and implementation; Safe Routes to School capital and non-infrastructure programs; and PDA planning and implementation.

**Prop AA.** We will use the OBAG 3 call for projects to inform our recommendation for how to use \$1,021,021 in FY 2021/22 Prop AA Transit category funds that we are recommending to be reprogrammed from the SFMTA's Transit Stop Signage Enhancement Program - Phase 2 project consistent with Prop AAs timely use of funds policies. In July 2020, the Board approved \$1,043,898 for Phase 1 of the project, which has experienced delays due to the COVID pandemic, project management staffing, and a backlog at the SFMTA's sign shop. Prop AA has strict timely-use-of-funds requirements to help avoid situations where funds sit unused for prolonged periods of time given Prop AA's focus on delivering tangible benefits in the short term. Any project programmed within the Prop AA Strategic Plan that does not request allocation of funds in the year of programming may, at the discretion of the Transportation Authority Board, have its funding deobligated and reprogrammed to other projects through a competitive call for Prop AA projects. Given the delays on Phase 1, staff are recommending that we reprogram Phase 2 funds to an eligible transit project with near-term funding needs, to be identified through the OBAG 3 call for projects.

#### **4. APPLICATION PROCESS**

To apply, please submit an electronic version of the **OBAG 3 application form (Attachment 3)** and associated attachments in the original format (e.g. MS Word or Excel), as well as one **PDF of the entire application, and a completed [MTC Complete Streets Checklist](#) (Attachment 4) via email to [obag@sfcta.org](mailto:obag@sfcta.org) by 5 p.m. on July 1, 2022.** If a project is CMAQ eligible, please also include the Supplemental Air Quality Inputs Form (Attachment 5) in the application. Every project must have its own application. If a sponsor submits more



than one application, please indicate project priority order in the project applications. See [MTC's Complete Streets website](#) for more information on the checklist.

All resources required to complete the application will be available on the Transportation Authority's website at <https://www.sfcta.org/obag3>. This includes links to resources and guidance. Please let Transportation Authority staff know immediately if you have any issues accessing the resources or completing the application.

## **5. SCREENING AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA**

Attachment 5 includes the project screening and prioritization criteria that we will use to determine San Francisco's OBAG 3 project nominations. MTC requires CMAs to use its established screening and prioritization criteria but allows us to add criteria to prioritize projects based on the needs within our county. The county nominated projects will go into the regionwide pool for evaluation and prioritization by MTC, making it important that San Francisco submit competitive projects.

**Transportation Authority (CMA) Prioritization.** San Francisco's evaluation criteria described in Attachment 5 take into consideration the need to position San Francisco projects to score well regionally since MTC will ultimately select projects from the regional pool of CMA-nominated projects.

Given the challenge of meeting the timely use of funds requirements on these federal OBAG funds and MTC's emphasis on deliverability, we will give strong consideration to project readiness when selecting projects. For more detail on the timely use of funds requirements, including deadlines for sponsors to receive federal authorization to spend the funds, please refer to MTC's Regional Project Delivery Policy Guidance (Attachment 6). In general, the more criteria a project satisfies and the better it meets them, the higher a project will be ranked within the San Francisco project nomination list.

**MTC (Regional) Prioritization.** MTC's project evaluation includes up to 75 points for CMA prioritization, 15 points for regional impact, and 10 points for deliverability, and projects that are eligible for federal air quality improvement funds can receive up to 10 points.

## **6. MONITORING AND SUPPORT**

As CMA, the Transportation Authority is responsible for ensuring that projects are delivered in a timely manner, that the projects remain consistent with the original purpose and general scope approved by the Board and MTC, and that no OBAG funds are lost to San Francisco or the region. As such, sponsor agencies awarded OBAG 3 funds will be required to provide regular updates to Transportation Authority staff on project status and activities, and any issues that may affect project delivery and costs. We expect these updates in a timely



manner but no less frequently than quarterly via the Transportation Authority's online grant portal, available at <https://portal.sfcta.org/>. Ongoing communication enables Transportation Authority staff to assist with resolving issues and keep our commissioners and the public up to date on delivery of San Francisco's OBAG 3 program of projects.

## **7. FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information or assistance with this call for projects, please email [obag@sfcta.org](mailto:obag@sfcta.org) or contact Aprile Smith at 415.522.4837 or via email at [aprile.smith@sfcta.org](mailto:aprile.smith@sfcta.org) or Anna LaForte at 415-522-4805 or via email at [anna.laforte@sfcta.org](mailto:anna.laforte@sfcta.org). The documents referenced herein are available on the Transportation Authority's website at <https://www.sfcta.org/obag3>.

### **Attachments**

1. MTC OBAG 3 County & Local Program Call for Projects Guidelines and Project Selection and Programming Policies (MTC Resolution No. 4505, Appendix A-1 and Attachment A)
2. San Francisco Maps
  - a. Priority Development Areas
  - b. 2021 San Francisco Equity Priority Communities Map (<https://www.sfcta.org/policies/equity-priority-communities>)
3. Application Form
4. MTC Complete Streets Checklist and Guidance
5. Supplemental Air Quality Input Form for CMAQ-eligible Projects
6. Screening and Prioritization Criteria
7. MTC Regional Project Delivery Policy Guidance (Resolution 3606)