



The California Transportation Commission, left, recently approved a \$111 million slate of “active transportation” projects intended to give travelers more non-motorized transportation choices, as well as help communities lower greenhouse gas emissions that threaten the health of residents.

SB 1 Benefits Flowing to Local Projects

State Commission Steers Gas Tax Revenue To Safer, Less Polluting Travel Options

The California Transportation Commission in December and January awarded grants totaling \$111 million for projects that promote bicycling and walking through the Active Transportation Program.

The Commission took these steps because of funding made available through the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, or Senate Bill 1.

The funds went to 10 Metropolitan Planning Organizations throughout the state, and included “active transportation” projects that make it safer for children to walk and bike to school, and benefit disadvantaged communities.

One of the largest distributions was \$5.6 million to San Diego Association of Governments to extend a trail corridor in Vista and improve roadway crossings for pedestrians. A Fresno County project, awarded \$245,000, will add sidewalks, curb ramps and gutters in the Biola community.

In addition, the Commission, in December, awarded nearly \$32 million in planning grants to

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support local agencies’ efforts to create more environmentally friendly communities, combat the effects of climate change, and reduce greenhouse gases.

Sustainability grants went to support 43 local and regional multimodal transportation and land-use planning projects. These grants support programs that help achieve the state’s greenhouse gas reductions of 40 percent and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively.

Additionally, \$7 million in Adaptation Planning grants were awarded to 21 projects throughout California. These grants are awarded to local and regional governments to help protect transportation

assets in the face of climate change and extreme weather events. SB 1 will provide a total of \$20 million over three years for this grant program.

Senate Bill 1 will invest about \$54 billion over the next decade to fix roads, freeways and bridges, and puts more money toward transit and safety. The new law also directs \$100 million in additional funding each year for the Active Transportation Program,

and will provide more than \$270 million in planning grants for local communities over 10 years. **MM**

Sources: Caltrans Public Information Office; California Transportation Commission meeting agendas, Dec. 6-7, 2017; Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2018.

Help Coming to Connect, Protect Communities

Some examples of Sustainable Community Grants

- **\$292,149 to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority for the Bayview Community-Based Transportation Plan.** A lack of transportation options in this neighborhood creates significant obstacles to reach jobs, schools, grocery stores, and other important destinations. The plan calls for significant improvements to the transportation network.
- **\$600,000 to the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority for a sidewalk connectivity plan.** The plan builds upon an existing non-motorized transportation plan.

Among the Climate Adaptation Planning grants

- **\$649,500 to San Mateo County for climate vulnerability and mainstreaming resilience planning.** The grant will assess countywide climate change impacts and identify vulnerable transportation infrastructure. San Mateo County will develop tools, templates, strategies and resources to assist local jurisdictions with adaptation work. Residents vulnerable to climate change will be identified and asked to participate in the planning process.
- **\$359,756 to California Tahoe Conservancy toward development of a climate adaptation strategy for the Lake Tahoe Basin.** The project will focus on transportation issues as part of a larger interagency climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the Lake Tahoe Basin. The basin is home to a num-



The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority will get money to improve the Bayview community's transportation options.

ber of low-income and transit-dependent communities expected to benefit from hazard mitigation and emergency evacuation maps.

- **\$354,000 to Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services for urban cooling strategies in certain neighborhoods.** How to dissipate urban heat islands in residential neighborhoods serviced by the Metro Orange Line Sherman Way Station is the focus of this project. It's intended to benefit working-class residents in parts of the San Fernando Valley who walk or bike through the project area, and it could be a model for a citywide strategy.