

**2022 TRANSIT AND
INTERCITY RAIL
CAPITAL PROGRAM**

**DRAFT
GUIDELINES FOR
GENERAL FUND
AUGMENTATION**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022



TRANSIT AND INTERCITY RAIL CAPITAL PROGRAM

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1 Authority and Purpose

The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) was created by Senate Bill (SB) 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014) and modified by SB 9 (Chapter 710, Statutes of 2015), to provide grants from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to fund transformative capital improvements that will modernize California’s intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems, and bus and ferry transit systems, to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion. The legislation of these bills is codified in Sections 75220 through 75225 of the Public Resources Code (PRC). Assembly Bill (AB) 398 (Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017) extended the Cap-and-Trade Program that supports the TIRCP from 2020 through 2030. SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) continues to provide a historic funding increase for transportation with funds directed to the TIRCP from the Public Transportation Account for new programming in this cycle.

AB 180 amended the Budget Act of 2021 (Chapters 21, 69 and 240 of the Statutes of 2021) to appropriate \$3,630,000,000 of General Fund to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and \$350,000,000 of General Fund for High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation projects. These guidelines are specifically developed to facilitate the award of a portion of these funds to projects in an expeditious manner.

These guidelines are founded upon the describe the policy, standards, criteria, and procedures for the development, adoption, evaluation and administration of the TIRCP last updated for Cycle 5 (which made its project awards in July 2022), but are unique to this particular cycle of TIRCP funding. They will be further informed by input received through workshops, public comments and written responses to be received by early November.

AB 180 provided additional direction with regards to the funding appropriated in the Budget Act of 2021. It created specific categories for funding as follows:

- A) \$1,831,500,000 shall be for high-priority transit projects in Southern California, geographically inclusive of the Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura, to deliver local and regional projects. At least \$900 million of this amount shall be administered as a General Fund set-aside for an “Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal & Local Funds Reserve” within Southern California, and shall be available for multi-year grants to support the delivery of capital projects that have previously received grants from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and that can demonstrate that a supplemental state grant would leverage or maintain an identified source of significant local or federal investment, including through the federal Capital Investment Grant Program, Expedited Project Delivery Program, or other such federal funding source.
- B) \$1,498,500,000 shall be for geographical areas outside of the Southern California counties identified above for investments in high-priority transit and rail infrastructure projects. At least \$900 million of this amount shall be administered as a General Fund set-aside for an “Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal & Local Funds Reserve”, and shall be available for multi-year grants to support the delivery of capital projects that have previously received grants from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and that can demonstrate that a supplemental state grant would leverage or maintain an identified source of significant local or federal investment, including through the federal Capital Investment Grant Program, Expedited Project Delivery Program, or other such federal funding source.
- C) The Transportation Agency shall amend its program guidelines for the Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal & Local Funds Reserve to establish an application review and prioritization process that is separate and apart from the prioritization of program funds not set aside under this provision.
- D) Up to \$150,000,000 total across both regions shall be administered as a General Fund set-aside for a “Major Projects Project Development Reserve” and shall be available for multiyear grants to

support the delivery of capital projects and programs of projects that have entered or have applied to enter federal project development processes for at least a portion of the project or program of projects, and that expect to receive federal funding in the future once complete with project development. Contingent awards that provide the match necessary to leverage federal planning funds shall be encouraged. The Transportation Agency shall amend its program guidelines to establish an application review and prioritization process that is separate and apart from the prioritization of program funds not set aside under this provision.

- E) \$100,000,000 shall be administered as a General Fund set-aside for High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects. Such funds shall be available for multi-year grants to support the delivery of projects that maximize safety benefits and reduce or eliminate conflicts between road users and railroads, including those anticipated with future rail service growth. Such projects may benefit existing or proposed rail passenger services. Contingent awards that provide the match necessary to leverage federal funds shall be encouraged. The Transportation Agency shall amend its program guidelines to establish an application review and prioritization process that is separate and apart from the prioritization of program funds not set aside under this provision.

In addition, AB 180 appropriated \$250,000,000 to the Department of Transportation for local assistance grade separation projects funded with resources from the General Fund. The Transportation Agency and the Department intend to select these projects through the guidelines developed for the High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation projects addressed in these guidelines.

Finally, all funds not assigned to one of the set-aside categories identified above will be administered to new projects selected through the regular TIRCP process.

2 Background

AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, AB 32 created a comprehensive program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. AB 32 requires California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and to maintain and continue reductions beyond 2020. SB 32 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016) established a climate goal for California to reduce greenhouse gases to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

The Cap-and-Trade Program, a key element in California's Climate Change Scoping Plan, implements measure to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals. It creates a limit on the emissions from sources responsible for 85 percent of California's greenhouse gas emissions, establishes the price signal needed to drive long-term investment in cleaner fuels and more efficient use of energy, and gives covered entities flexibility to implement the lowest-cost options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2012, the Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed into law three bills, AB 1532 (Chapter 807, Statutes of 2012), SB 535 (Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012), and SB 1018 (Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012), that established the GGRF to receive the State's portions of proceeds from the distribution of allowances via auction and provided the framework for how those auction proceeds will be appropriated and expended. Subsequent legislation, AB 1550 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016), modified requirements for expenditures from the GGRF relative to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households. State law requires that expenditures from the GGRF be used to facilitate the achievement of greenhouse gas emission reductions. In addition, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program expenditures must comply with the requirements contained in SB 862 and SB 9, which provide statutory direction for the program.

In 2019 and 2020, Governor Newsom signed two executive orders—E.O. N-19-19 and E.O. N-79-20—both of empower CalSTA to leverage discretionary state transportation funds to reduce transportation-related Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and to adapt to climate change. E.O. N-79-20 set a deadline of July 15, 2021 for CalSTA to identify specific near-term actions and investment strategies to combat and prepare for climate change, which resulted in the creation of the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure

(CAPTI).

The Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) was developed by CalSTA through a robust stakeholder engagement process and was adopted on July 12, 2021. CAPTI puts forth a set of guiding principles which serve as a framework for state discretionary transportation investment, and also includes a suite of implementation strategies and actions meant to align transportation infrastructure investments with the overall investment framework. TIRCP is closely linked to CAPTI and serves as a means by which to implement the higher-level policy developed in the plan. The TIRCP Guidelines include updates that work to implement actions listed in CAPTI, particularly Actions S2.1, S2.3, and S7.1. Together, these actions help TIRCP support California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP) implementation, support deployment of ZEV fleets, and better support Pro-Housing policies.

- **S2.1 Implement the California Integrated Travel Project (Cal-ITP):**

Caltrans will provide transit providers an easier and less expensive process to implement contactless payment, benefit eligibility verification, and other services via Cal-ITP. Additionally, Caltrans will work to provide technical assistance and support to small and rural transit operators to implement these features in their service areas.

- **S2.3 Accelerate TIRCP Cycles to Support Transit Recovery with Deployment of ZEV Transit/Rail Fleets and Transit/Rail Network Improvements:**

In collaboration with CARB, CalSTA will develop a new Clean Fleet and Facilities Network Improvement project category in the TIRCP to provide additional support and funding to transit agencies needing to replace their aging vehicle fleets with ZEVs, while also working with local agencies to improve network efficiency and integration. Additionally, to support economic recovery efforts in the short term, the administration has supported increasing the TIRCP which will enable CalSTA to accelerate the 2022 funding cycle to allow for pursuing this new project category without undermining current investments. Additionally, CalSTA hopes to start guidelines development and the program call for projects earlier than past years and identify additional near-term cash flow that will expand funding opportunities. CalSTA will also offer expanded technical assistance prior to application to support agencies of every size throughout the state.

- **S7.1 Leverage Transportation Investments to Incentivize Infill Housing Production:**

CalSTA will work to use transportation funding to reduce VMT by incentivizing infill residential development and densities appropriate and feasible for each given community. Building upon the “Pro-Housing” Standard developed by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), competitive funding programs will explore adopting incentives for local policies that tend to support location-efficient and mixed-use housing production, while considering the needs of rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions and how appropriate policies may differ among those areas. Such local policies may include Housing Element compliance, by-right (nondiscretionary) approval processes for multifamily residential and mixed-use development, zoning to allow for residential and mixed-use developments in non-residential zones, reduced parking requirements for residential development, or expanded density bonuses that exceed state density bonus law, among other local policies. Initially, transportation programs with a statutory linkage or scoring criteria tied to land use efficiency or GHG reductions could adopt these incentives as competitive scoring criteria and enhanced guidance to facilitate interjurisdictional coordination between project proponents and local planning departments. Using the “Pro-Housing” Standard as a framework will allow for statewide applicability and ample flexibility in approaches to meet any new criteria

More information on CAPTI can be found at:

<https://calsta.ca.gov/subject-areas/climate-action-plan>

3 Objectives

The TIRCP was created to fund transformative capital improvements that modernize California's intercity rail, bus (including feeder buses to intercity rail services, as well as vanpool and micro transit services that are eligible to report as public transit to the Federal Transit Administration), ferry, and rail transit systems (collectively referred to as transit services or systems inclusive of all aforementioned modes unless otherwise specified) to achieve all of the following policy objectives, as codified in Section 75220(a) of the PRC:

1. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
2. Expand and improve transit service to increase ridership
3. Integrate the rail service of the state's various rail operations, including integration with the high-speed rail system
4. Improve transit safety

Additionally, Section 75221(c) of the PRC codifies a programmatic goal to provide at least 25 percent of available funding to projects that provide a direct, meaningful, and assured benefit to disadvantaged communities, consistent with the objectives of SB 535. AB 1550 provides further requirements related to ensuring investments meet the needs of priority populations, a term used to cover disadvantaged communities, low-income communities and low-income households. Investments made by TIRCP are expected to collectively meet or exceed the requirements in AB 1550.

Taken as a whole, the increases in transit system ridership, as well as the reduction in vehicle miles traveled, congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, will help deliver a healthier and safer transportation system. Investments are expected to position the state to lead in the deployment of cutting edge and zero emission technologies, test innovative strategies and new approaches to reducing transportation-related fatalities, provide important new capacity in corridors that support growth in jobs and housing, and to expand multimodal transportation access and options for all Californians across all regions of the state.

AB 180 identifies additional objectives for the General Fund resources, specifically in the three categories of set aside funding, as follows:

- A) **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve:** to support the delivery of capital projects that have previously received grants from the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and that can demonstrate that a supplemental state grant would leverage or maintain an identified source of significant local or federal investment.
- B) **Major Projects Project Development Reserve:** to support the delivery of capital projects and programs of projects that have entered or have applied to enter federal project development processes for at least a portion of the project or program of projects, and that expect to receive federal funding in the future once complete with project development. Contingent awards that provide the match necessary to leverage federal planning funds shall be encouraged.
- C) **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects:** to support the delivery of projects that maximize safety benefits and reduce or eliminate conflicts between road users and railroads, including those anticipated with future rail service growth. Such projects may benefit existing or proposed rail passenger services. Contingent awards that provide the match necessary to leverage federal funds shall be encouraged. Additional detail on project objectives is provided in the addendum to the main guidelines.

4 Pre-Application and Post-Award Technical Assistance

Caltrans, in collaboration with CalSTA, will offer expanded technical assistance prior to application to support agencies of every size throughout the state, including assistance in identifying critical elements to documenting increased ridership across the project and network it serves for agencies pursuing zero emission vehicle purchases. The Office of Planning and Operations Support in the Division of Rail and Mass Transit (DRMT) at Caltrans will also provide required ridership modeling assistance for any project benefiting or impacting the intercity rail system.

Once awards are publicly announced, DRMT's Office of Project Development, Management and Delivery will lead implementation and grant management of the selected projects, with assistance from the Office of Planning and Operations Support to ensure alignment of project scope with the project award and the Caltrans Office of Race and Equity to ensure integration of efforts to deliver Priority Population benefits into the approved project scope and programming documents.

5 Funding

The TIRCP receives a portion of the Transportation Improvement Fee revenues established by SB 1 and a continuous appropriation of 10 percent from the quarterly Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds deposited in the GGRF, plus any annual budget allocations provided by enacted budget bills.

The TIRCP funds available for this General Fund cycle are already available for award, encumbrance and liquidation, and are expected to be fully encumbered and liquidated by June 30, 2027. These funds are regionally subdivided as noted in Section 1 (Authority and Purpose). The following target ranges should be assumed by applicants:

- A) Southern California, inclusive of the Counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura:
 - a. **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve:** \$900 million to \$1.35 billion
 - b. **New Projects:** \$331.5 million to \$931.5 million
 - c. **Major Projects Project Development Reserve:** up to \$150 million
 - d. **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects:** \$140 million to \$280 million
- B) Rest of the State:
 - a. **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve:** \$900 million to \$1.20 billion
 - b. **New Projects:** \$148.5 million to \$598.5 million
 - c. **Major Projects Project Development Reserve:** up to \$150 million
 - d. **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects:** \$70 million to \$210 million

As provided in statute, CalSTA may revise its approved Program of Projects and/or Program Allocation Plan as necessary, including deletion or delay of projects based on a shortfall of funding or lack of project progress. The Program Allocation Plan will reflect planned multi-year funding amounts for any projects or project elements expected to receive their funding over more than one year, and may be adjusted at any time to address project or program needs and to align allocations with revenues.

6 Schedule

2022 Cycle 6 Draft Guidelines Schedule

Release Draft 2022 Cycle 6 Guidelines	September 30, 2022
Guidelines Workshops (Virtual)	
Workshop 1 (focused on large applicants)	Nov 3, 2022
Workshop 2 (focused on rural and small applicants)	Nov 4, 2022
Closing Date for Comments on Draft Guidelines *	Nov 7, 2022
CalSTA Publishes 2022 Cycle 6 Guidelines	November 15, 2022
Call for Projects	November 15, 2022
Existing Projects Preliminary Information Submittal	December 6, 2022
Optional, time-limited, focused virtual meetings for applicants to discuss project concepts and quantifications (will be scheduled by request; does not apply to existing project applicants)	December 12-16, 2021
Transmission of Follow-Up Questions to Existing Projects Applicants	December 20, 2022
Answers to Follow-Up Questions Due from Existing Project Applicants	January 13, 2023
Anticipated Announcement of Existing Project Awards	January 31, 2023
Project Applications Due	February 10, 2023
CalSTA Anticipated Award Announcement	April 24, 2023
<i>*Comments can be submitted to: tircpcomments@dot.ca.gov</i>	

7 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be public agencies, including joint powers agencies, that operate or have planning responsibility for existing or planned regularly scheduled intercity or commuter passenger rail service (and associated feeder bus service to intercity rail services), urban rail transit service, or bus or ferry transit service (including commuter bus, vanpool, and micro transit services). Public agencies include local municipalities that operate transit service, construction authorities, transportation authorities, and other similar public entities created by statute.

An applicant assumes responsibility and accountability for the use and expenditure of allocated funds. Applicants must comply with all relevant federal and state laws, regulations, policies, and procedures. Private companies may partner with eligible applicants to propose and deliver projects.

For **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects**, detail on eligible applicants is provided in the addendum to the main guidelines.

For **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds**, applicants must be the same as those that submitted the original application.

8 Eligible Projects

Eligible applicants may submit project applications individually or as part of a joint application. In order to be eligible for funding under this program, a project must demonstrate that it will achieve a reduction in

greenhouse gas emissions using the CARB quantification methodology.

As codified in Section 75221(a) of the PRC, projects eligible for funding under the program include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Rail capital projects, including intercity rail, commuter rail, light rail, and other fixed guideway projects. Additionally, the acquisition of rail cars and locomotives, and the facilities to support them, that expand, enhance, and/or improve existing rail systems and connectivity to existing and future transit systems, including the high-speed rail system.
2. Intercity, commuter, and urban rail projects that increase service levels, improve reliability, or decrease travel times, infrastructure access payments to host railroads in lieu of capital investments, efforts to improve existing rail service effectiveness with a focus on improved operating agreements, schedules, and minor capital investments that are expected to generate increased ridership, as well as larger scale projects designed to achieve significantly larger benefits.
3. Rail, bus, and ferry integration implementation, including:
 - a. integrated ticketing and scheduling systems and related software/hardware capital investments (including, but not limited to, integration with bus or ferry operators and the use of contactless payment and General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) implementation through Cal-ITP)
 - b. projects enabling or enhancing shared-use corridors (both multi-operator passenger only corridors as well as passenger-freight corridors)
 - c. related planning efforts focused on, but not limited to, delivery of integrated service not requiring major capital investment
 - d. other multimodal and service integration initiatives
4. Bus rapid transit and other bus and ferry transit investments (including autonomous fixed guideway, vanpool, and micro transit services operated as public transit and first-/last-mile solutions), and to increase ridership and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes large scale deployment of zero emission vehicles and the technologies to support them, and capital investments as a component implementing transit effectiveness studies that will contribute to restructured and enhanced service.

CalSTA intends to fund a small number of transformative projects that will significantly reduce vehicle miles traveled, congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions by: (1) creating a new transit system (2) increasing the capacity of an existing transit system, or (3) otherwise significantly increasing the ridership of a transit system. Significant change will be measured both in percentage terms (percent increase compared to the existing system or corridor) and in total quantity terms (increase in number of riders and passenger miles per day). Benefits from the proposed project may accrue from ridership generated on more than one transit system or corridor due to integration, and such benefits may be counted as long as the connected system or corridor has sufficient capacity to carry the increased passenger demand.

Projects related to mitigating the impacts on freight rail services that are caused by growth in passenger rail may also be eligible for TIRCP funding even if they are not directly on the passenger rail corridor. However, they should be included in an application for a project that increases passenger rail ridership.

The awarded projects may include, for example, both lower-cost projects focused on integration, reliability and enhancement of service, and higher-cost capital expansion projects. In addition, CalSTA seeks projects that link housing with key destinations and that improve accessibility to economic opportunities. CalSTA may also make some funding available for demonstration projects that are smaller-scale efforts with great potential to be expanded. Projects may include new approaches to attracting increased ridership such as smart phone mobile ticketing, contactless payment, or other software and hardware solutions to reduce ticketing transaction costs, or a test of a concept related to integrated ticketing, as well as intercity rail/transit effectiveness or operational planning as a component of the capital investments in improved, expanded and/or restructured service designed to cost-effectively increase ridership. Research, development and testing of emerging technologies are eligible components of project applications.

Clean fleet, facility and network improvement projects that support agencies replacing aging vehicle fleets with Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), and associated fueling or charging infrastructure or facility modifications, may also be eligible for TIRCP funding even if not increasing the number of vehicles in the transit agency fleet. Such projects will generally qualify through various efforts that (1) improve network efficiency with transit priority investments that allow savings in vehicle hours operated to be redeployed into increased service on the same or other routes, (2) implement improvements to payments systems that are designed to increase ridership, including implementation of contactless open payment, traveler information through GTFS-Real Time (GTFS-RT), and other services available through Cal-ITP, and/or (3) improve integration with other corridors and/or operators through service restructuring designed to increase network ridership. Smaller and/or rural agencies that may have difficulty transitioning to electrified fleets without additional support are encouraged to apply and seek technical assistance during the consultation periods highlighted in the project schedule, recognizing that many such agencies have not previously applied to the program. ZEV leases are eligible for TIRCP funding, but benefits modeled must match the duration of the lease.

Addressing the integration of rail and transit referenced in the TIRCP objectives and described in the eligible projects will require attention to network integration amongst rail and transit services. Improving integration will improve connectivity and the seamlessness of the travel experience for users by eliminating points of friction during a public transportation journey, and as a result increase ridership across multiple corridors and/or systems. These points of friction come in many forms, including but not limited to a lack of universal GTFS trip-planning information, poor service design and uncoordinated schedules, incompatible fare and ticketing policies and systems between agencies, and unsafe and inconvenient physical connections between modes. Examples of types of network integration projects include:

- Contactless open payment systems and real-time traveler information through GTFS to improve system integration and rider connectivity
- Coordinated schedule and timetable planning between agencies to reduce transfer wait times and improve the seamlessness of the travel experience, and the capital projects necessary to improve such coordination and operations;
- Integrated station design to accommodate existing and planned services and their service expansions, and capital projects necessary to invest in hubs at such stations;
- Planning to determine opportunities to co-locate maintenance and yard facilities, as needed, and capital projects to invest in such facilities;
- Service and infrastructure needs analysis to determine the feasibility of new or expanded systems that better integrate service, and the capital investment necessary to implement such services;
- Station area and transit facility improvements to facilitate better land uses and access by active or shared mobility modes, as well as to enhance customer safety and comfort.

Network integration and system development planning can be components in the application with their own scope, schedule and budget, but they must relate to the overall capital project being proposed (including identifying ways to improve the benefits realized by the project upon implementation or through identifying additional capital investments that could be funded in later phases to enhance network and system benefits). Where relevant, it should demonstrate support of the integration demonstrated in the vision laid out in the 2018 California State Rail Plan. CalSTA may elect to include network integration technical assistance and/or additional funding as part of a TIRCP award if it is determined that there is a need not adequately addressed by the applicant, especially if integration can be improved with regards to adjacent state-funded capital projects or state-funded rail operations. CalSTA and Caltrans may provide technical assistance to ensure that TIRCP program and statewide goals and priorities are being addressed through the work.

Applicants may apply for multiple projects in a cycle. However, an applicant submitting multiple project applications must clearly prioritize its project applications. Applicants are also encouraged to identify phases or priorities within each project application, if applicable, so that available resources may be awarded to a phase or priority if the full project cannot be funded. Many applicants have found it more helpful to submit a single application that describes a programmatic set of inter-related projects rather than submitting multiple applications. Phasing and priority-setting within such a programmatic application can then be clearly identified, but the narrative describing the goals and outcomes can be shared.

Applicants submitting a high-dollar, single application with no scalability or separable project elements may increase the risk of having an uncompetitive project application. At the same time, applicants are advised to submit projects that are scalable where practical. In the event that available program resources expand or contract prior to the completion of the programming cycle, CalSTA may revise the funding available for the programming cycle.

There is not a set limit on the amount of funding that a project can be awarded, but geographic equity requirements for the program plays a practical role in limiting the amount a given applicant and project could expect. Geographic equity is considered within each cycle of funding, as well as with consideration given to the degree to which the geography in question has been underrepresented in past cycles.

While there is no minimum match requirement for this funding source, funding leverage is desirable and will be considered in the evaluation of expected project benefits. In particular, emphasis will be placed on projects that:

- Leverage funding from other GGRF programs such as Caltrans' Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, the SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities and Transformative Climate Communities Programs, or CARB's Low Carbon Transportation funding program (including the Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Program (HVIP))
- Leverage funding from SB1 sources (including formula program sources)
- Leverage funding from other federal, state, local, regional, or private sources (including potential local transportation funding measures, as further detailed in Section 12)

Consideration will be given as to those sources that are discretionary (including competitive and noncompetitive funding sources) compared to those that are non-discretionary. A recipient of money under the program may combine funding from the program with other state funding (if allowed), including, but not limited to, the State Transportation Improvement Program, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, clean vehicle programs, and state transportation bond funds.

If a project is awarded funds, all funds identified as committed to the project may be required as a funding match at the time of project selection and, based on the matching percentage identified at the time of selection, a pro-rata reimbursement agreement (or other suitable agreement) may be established to ensure project savings are returned proportionally. Project completion savings are returned proportionally except when an agency has committed additional funds to the project to fund a cost increase. In such instances, savings at project completion may be returned to other fund types first, until proportions match those at programming. If capital assets are removed from service before the end of their useful life, pro-rata repayment of grant funds may be required.

Redeployment of capital assets to achieve similar, or greater, benefits more effectively may be permitted, but must be documented (with documentation including a detailed justification of the requested redeployment) by the grantee and approved in advance by CalSTA. For example, once a project is operational, and after monitoring service performance and determining that it was not performing as expected, redeploying bus service to achieve greater greenhouse gas reductions or better serve priority populations based on current needs may be permitted.

If an implementing agency receives funding for a project that is to be completed with other funds (for example, a project which receives funds for plans, specifications, and estimates from the TIRCP but which will receive local measure funding for construction), that agency is required to complete the project as

proposed. If the project is not completed and put into service as awarded, the agency may be required to fully or partially repay funds from the TIRCP commensurate with the failure to complete the project and deliver anticipated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

If a project application was only partially awarded in a previous cycle, applicants may request additional funds for the unawarded components in a future funding cycle. However, applicants may not request additional funds for the same previously awarded project components based on cost escalation or loss of a matching funding source. Such projects may reapply in a future cycle with a revised financial plan, but are subject to new ratings relevant to the current application cycle, and may or may not succeed in receiving a funding award.

Prior to the project application due date, CalSTA invites interested eligible applicants to optional meetings (as outlined in the calendar section of the document) to discuss proposed project concepts and quantifications, in order to clarify program requirements.

For **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects**, detail on eligible projects is provided in the addendum to the main guidelines.

For **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds**, applicants must submit already awarded projects (from Cycles 1 to 4) that can demonstrate that a supplemental state grant would leverage or maintain an identified source of significant local or federal investment. Maintaining funding includes seeking funding for projects that are under construction and will lose access to committed federal funds unless additional non-federal funds are identified. Leveraging funding includes seeking funding for projects that need additional state funds in order to successfully receive a future federal or local funding commitment.

For the **Major Projects Project Development Reserve**, projects must be seeking to enter or already have entered a federal project development program, such as the Capital Investment Grant Program at the Federal Transit Administration or the Corridor Development Program at the Federal Railroad Administration.

9 Project Applications

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the Call for Projects.

Applications will be treated in accordance with Public Records Act requirements and certain information, subject to those requirements, may be publicly disclosed.

Each project application must include a signed cover letter, with signature authorizing and approving the application.

The project application shall include:

1. Project title, which should be a brief non-technical description of the project type, scope, and location.
2. Project priority (if agency is submitting multiple applications). Explain the prioritization, including any state, regional or local planning efforts that support the ranking.
3. Project purpose and need.
4. Project scope.
5. Project Location – provide a map for each of the following:
 - A. Project location denoting the project site. Provide a KML file for the project with the transit route/project location represented by lines and stops represented by points as applicable.
Project location denoting disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households that will benefit from the project (Attachment 1, CCI Funding Guidelines).
 - B. Greenhouse gas reducing features such as project components that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions along a specific corridor, surrounding land use density, housing and employment centers, transit- oriented development/sustainable communities

strategy projects, active transportation infrastructure and other features, to the extent available. If available, consider including the following information on maps related to the project, as these will help in evaluating many of the secondary evaluation criteria:

- Land use diversity/mix of land uses specified on the map
- In addition to showing where housing exists, provide information on housing density *and* planned/zoned/permitted/etc. housing density;
- In addition to illustrating existing employment centers, provide information on employment density, mix of employment types, and planned future employment land uses.
- Current neighborhood walkability (e.g., see Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) guidelines for sources of walkability data);
- Planned and existing active transportation infrastructure (what currently exists, what is planned, and what would be funded by the project)

6. Project costs.

Documentation of the basis for the costs, benefits and schedules must be cited in the project application and additional detail made available upon request. The application should identify:

- A. Cost estimates escalated to the year of proposed delivery. Only cost estimates approved by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorized officer of the implementing agency should be used.
- B. The amount and source of funds committed to the project (including funding for initial operating costs). A funding commitment is defined in Section 12 of this document.
- C. The amount of TIRCP funds requested. TIRCP funds cannot be used to supplant other committed funds.
- D. If applying for Network Integration as a separate component, please specifically indicate the costs.

7. Project schedule including benefits reporting, the project's current status and the completion dates of all major delivery milestones.

8. Project benefits:

- A. A clear demonstration of the expected GHG reduction benefits, other co-benefits, and the proposed metrics for tracking and reporting on those benefits consistent with the CARB's Funding Guidelines, as described in Attachments 1-3.
- B. The description of project benefits that address all Primary and Secondary Evaluation Criteria listed below under Project Selection Process (Section 10), indicating that a category is not applicable, or no benefits are expected when that is the case.
- C. An estimate of the useful life of the project for the dominant project asset type (can be separated by project category or phase if elements of the project have independent utility and could be separately funded or placed in service).
- D. When investment of TIRCP is proposed to improve private infrastructure, an assessment of public and private benefits to show that the share of public benefit is commensurate with the share of public funding.
- E. If a project will be applying for funding from other greenhouse gas reduction programs (such as Caltrans' Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, the SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program or the CARB's Low Carbon Transportation funding program (including HVIP)) or from the Commission's Active Transportation or other program, an indication if there are separable elements that will be funded from those other sources and the applicant must clearly explain any change to the benefits of the project if the funding from that source is not awarded to the project.
- F. Identify and include as an attachment all studies or planning documents relevant to the proposed project.

- G. If applying for Network Integration, specifically indicate the benefits and how the network integration work will enhance the overall project benefits.
 - H. A discussion of the proposed project's impact, both favorable and unfavorable, on other transit services and projects planned or underway within the corridor, including intercity rail, transit or high-speed rail services in a parallel or connecting corridor. Impacted plans should be clearly identified, and corresponding planning documents should be included as an attachment. If ridership of the other services is expected to be positively or negatively impacted by the proposed project, evidence of how the other services are to be impacted should be included in the application, including evidence of coordination with the other service providers and an estimate of multi-operator impacts where available. Project impacts that increase ridership on other services through increased transfers of passengers may be reflected in the quantification of GHG benefits only if the project also documents the ability of the connected corridor to provide capacity sufficient to accommodate the riders. If additional service must be operated by the adjoining operator, the operation of such service must be included in the calculation of emissions related to the project. If an agency recognizes value in additional efforts to integrate services with other transportation providers or enhance station access (including by active transportation) during the post-award period (and prior to the beginning of service resulting from the project), a specific task and budget for the proposed activities should be included in the project application. During application review, if additional efforts are evaluated as necessary in order to successfully address integration with other projects, systems or corridors, CalSTA may propose an additional task and assign additional funding to pursue such integration above and beyond what is requested in the project application, with the scope agreed to during development of the agreements necessary to allocate funding to the selected project. Projects expecting to have the impacts described in this section are strongly encouraged to make use of the optional pre-application technical assistance meetings described in Section 4 and on the schedule on Section 5.
9. If applicable, an explanation of how some or all of the project provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to a disadvantaged community, low income communities or low-income households as defined by [SB 535](#) and [AB 1550](#), including reducing administrative burdens – particularly those associated with eligibility verification across services. Identify a need of that community, including how the need was established to identify the portion of the project, if any, that is located within a disadvantaged community or low-income community and that addresses the need (see Section 10.3 and Attachment 1).
- A. If an agency plans to engage in additional efforts to consult with disadvantaged or low-income stakeholders during the post-award period (and prior to the beginning of service resulting from the project), a specific task and budget for the proposed activities should be included in the project application. Such efforts may include plans for service implementation of the specific project, addressing station access issues specific to the stakeholders, as well as developing proposals for service changes and capital investments that may be funded through future capital or operating funds or through project cost savings. Activities that address community engagement may include, but are not limited to, public workshops/meetings, door-to-door canvassing, house meetings, established website and/or social media efforts, surveys, focus groups, subcontracts with community-based organizations to conduct outreach, allocation of staff or contractor positions focused on community engagement, and advisory bodies or other shared decision-making bodies.
 - B. The general scope of the proposed effort should be submitted in draft form, but revision and development of additional detail prior to allocation of TIRCP funding for these activities may be requested by CalSTA in order to increase the benefits of the effort. During application review, if additional efforts are seen as necessary in order to successfully address the needs of disadvantaged or low income stakeholders, CalSTA may propose an additional task and potentially assign additional funding to pursue such consultations above and beyond what is

requested in the project application, with the scope agreed to during development of the agreements necessary to implement the selected project.

10. If applicable, an explanation of how the project will provide employment and workforce development and training benefits to the community, particularly to priority populations. This explanation should be accompanied by a Community Workforce Agreement, Project Labor Agreement, or some other agreement made between the applying agency and unions, community-based organizations, or other partners. If such activities are being conducted as part of the project, budget and scope elements should reflect the level of effort anticipated.
11. Address the ability to gather and analyze new datasets for public use and benefit as an outcome of the project.
12. Description of funding sources and approach to ensuring ongoing operating and maintenance costs of the project are funded through the useful life of the project (as applicable).
13. Description of how the project will assist in meeting the California Minimum GTFS Guidelines, and address any identified assessment deficiencies, if applicable. The guidelines may be found at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/cal-itp/california-minimum-general-transit-feed-specification-gtfs-guidelines>.

14. Each application must include an Electronic Project Programming Request (ePPR) Form that can be generated at <https://calsmart.dot.ca.gov> and choosing 'Other' funds option on the general information page. A users guide for generating the ePPR can be found at: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/financial-programming/documents/eppr-instructions-v101-a11y.pdf>

For further helps with ePPRs, please email: eppr@dot.ca.gov.

- A. Each Project Programming Request must list Federal, State, and local funding categories by fiscal year. All applicants must demonstrate the ability to absorb any cost overruns and deliver the proposed project with no additional funding from this program beyond that provided in initial grant or cooperative agreement, and to fund initial operating costs. If the project is a scope addition to a project programmed in an earlier TIRCP cycle the revised PPR must not show supplanting of previously committed non-TIRCP funds.
- B. An eligible applicant may submit an application to fund a project over multiple fiscal years. The cost of each project component must be listed in the state fiscal year in which the particular project component needs to receive a Commission TIRCP allocation. For environmental studies and permits, costs should be listed in the fiscal year during which environmental studies will begin. Costs for the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates should be listed in the fiscal year during which this work will begin. Right of way costs should be listed in the fiscal year(s) during which each right of way acquisition (including utility relocation) contract will first be executed. Construction costs should be programmed in the fiscal year during which each construction contract needs to receive a Commission TIRCP allocation to be advertised, and if an agency can receive TIRCP construction reimbursements over multiple fiscal years to fund a contract of extended duration, the application should list the amounts by fiscal year over which construction funding is required to meet expected contract requirements.
- C. If a project is expected to require multiple contracts for any stage of project development (often the case for multi-component projects), each contract should be listed separately with its respective funding requirements (to the extent known at the time of application), so that Commission TIRCP allocations may be sought in the programming year close to the specific contract need and funding allocations are put to timely use. If not known at the time of application, this information will be sought prior to Commission allocation so that the project and its various components can be properly programmed in the CalSTA Program

Allocation Plan.

- D. Applicants are encouraged to submit a narrative explanation or supplement to the PPR to reflect the proposed contracting approach and describing the ability of the project to receive funds on alternative allocation schedules. If a project has a special cash flow consideration that would benefit from TIRCP funds being available at a particular time, please describe this in the application.
 - E. Applicant must disclose if they're an FTA federal grantee or not, and are encouraged to include any FTA funding used as match if they are.
 - F. Finally, if a project is only requesting funds for a particular phase of the proposed project, such as a construction contract expected to be awarded in a specific year of the program, identify the prior phases and the funding associated with them.
15. Letters of support for project implementation, including letters from:
- A. Project partners essential to project implementation, such as host railroads or facility owners. If TIRCP funds are to be used at a later stage of project implementation (such as construction), and an agency is able to commit to delivering the project goals with no additional TIRCP funding (supplementing, if necessary, from non-TIRCP sources), letters of support may indicate overall support for the project as described in the application and willingness to engage in best efforts to achieve a formal agreement for the construction elements of the project that will still require a future stakeholder agreement. Commission allocation of awarded TIRCP funding for such future construction will be conditioned on such agreements being finalized and the project being implemented in a manner consistent with the original application.
 - B. A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), indicating that the project is consistent with an adopted Sustainable Communities Strategy, or in non-MPO regions, a regional plan to reduce GHG emissions and/or vehicle miles travelled (VMT). (It is not necessary to establish project eligibility for an MPO to indicate its specific support for the project.)
 - C. Regional agency or agencies.
 - D. Members of the community, including representatives of impacted disadvantaged or low-income communities. Letters from community organizations stating their recognition of benefits from the project are encouraged.
 - E. Additional stakeholders relevant to the proposed project.
16. Description of project elements that are separable or scalable based on available funding, if applicable, while still maintaining independent utility. For example, if an application is for improving services on three routes, each route may be separately described and prioritized so that the highest-priority portion of the application could be funded if resources are not sufficient for full project funding. If some or all of the project is already programmed using state or federal funds, the application must clearly explain if and how the scope of the project has changed since the most recent state or federal programming action, including an explanation of any differences in assumed federal funding level compared to the most recent Capital Investment Grant report or summary (if applicable). If the project is not scalable or separable, the applicant should provide background detailing why it is not practical for it to be phased or scaled.

Documentation of the basis for the costs, benefits, and schedules must be included in the project application and additional detail made available upon request. CalSTA will post basic project application information from all applications on its website prior to awarding funding. After projects are selected, CalSTA will post the status of all project applications to its website.

CalSTA encourages project applicants to carefully consider how to track the status and benefits of the proposed project, including having project budgets that allow for an appropriate level of before and after data collection and analysis (e.g., greenhouse gas reductions, diesel particulate matter reductions, increased transit service for disadvantaged community residents, etc.). This tracking could take the form of

customer surveys made before and after the proposed project, specific data analysis before and after the project, or other efforts. Since this is an ongoing funding program of the state, developing lessons learned and good supporting data are critical to future program effectiveness.

For project applicants that have recently submitted an application for Cycle 5 for a project that didn't receive funding or received only partial funding, the application requirements are unchanged. All or much of the prior application may be utilized for resubmission. Reference may be made to past application materials, including letters of support, and if they are unchanged, do not need to be updated.

For the **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve**, full funding applications will not be required, since each project has already been selected through a prior award cycle. Details on the specific project information required to apply for supplemental funding are included in Addendum 1 to these guidelines. Following submission of initial project information, Caltrans and CalSTA may follow up with applicants to request additional or clarifying information related to the evaluation process.

For the **Major Projects Project Development Reserve**, only the subset of application information that is relevant to the pre-construction phase will be necessary, as reflected in Addendum 2.

For **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects**, detail on application requirements is provided in Addendum 3 to these guidelines.

10 Project Evaluation

Applications will receive an initial screening for completeness and eligibility. Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be evaluated.

10.1 Primary Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be selected through a competitive process. The primary evaluation will be based on how well a project meets the objectives of the program, as further expanded upon by the grant evaluation considerations in statute:

1. **Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.** CARB has developed a quantification methodology for estimating greenhouse gas reductions that may occur as a result of project implementation (see Attachment 2). The inputs and assumptions behind these calculations must be thoroughly documented as part of the application. Applicants should present project elements that are scalable or separable in a manner that allows the greenhouse gas emission reductions of each element to be understood. Total cost per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO_{2e}) reduction and Transit and Intercity Capital Program funding per MTCO_{2e} reduction will be primary elements of the evaluation for project selection. Applicants must quantify greenhouse gas reductions (see Attachment 2) and submit reporting information in accordance with the CARB's Funding Guidelines (see Attachment 1). Highly rated projects will exhibit a low cost per ton of MTCO_{2e} reduction and will have strong documentation of the ridership and passenger mile impacts of the project.
2. **Increase ridership through expanded and improved rail and transit service (including connectivity to rail services through expanded and improved transit and/or feeder bus services, or by improving the rider experience through universal GTFS travel information and contactless open payments (such as through Cal-ITP)).** Expanding service and improved connectivity includes construction of new rail and transit infrastructure and facilities. Documentation of the assumptions and approach to estimating ridership changes is a critical component of evaluating greenhouse gas emission reductions. Highly rated projects will have significant ridership impacts relative to the project cost and well documented methodologies for establishing ridership forecasts. Projects must document the degree to which ridership growth expected over

the life of the project is supported by housing policies that will support such growth, including evidence of compliance with state-required housing plans (such as an Adopted Housing Element), and may include a designation of the community as Prohousing, as determined by the Department of Housing and Community Development's [Prohousing Designation Program](#). If multiple operators benefit from or are impacted by a project, highly rated projects will document specific ridership results specific to each operator, including any reductions impacting other operators. Recognizing that transit-supportive land use decisions are a key influencing factor of ridership, projects may capture additional ridership from entitled housing projects within a half mile of transit stations that are expected to be delivered within required project outcome reporting period, even if such delivery is following project completion. Investments in traveler information and payment systems that are part of the application should also be evaluated for their impact on project-level and/or system-wide ridership.

3. **Integrate the services of the state's various rail and transit operations, including integration with the high-speed rail system, and the associated integration of services between agencies to support network-wide connectivity.** Improving integration will improve connectivity and the seamlessness of the travel experience for users by eliminating points of friction during a public transportation journey. Highly rated projects will identify and address through service design and/or capital project design the opportunities to integrate services across multiple systems or corridors, where possible.
4. **Improve safety.** Projects that include specific measures to address safety for users or non-users of the transit or rail service should specifically note such project elements and the funding related to them. If the specific nature of safety-related projects components is still being determined in collaboration with local agencies and input from communities, applicants may discuss the broad location and types of investments being planned. Such improvements may include grade separations, improved crossing protection at railroad crossings, or elements in transit stations that reduce the likelihood of pedestrian fatalities and injuries, among other safety elements. Such safety elements may also include elements that increase the safety of disadvantaged and/or vulnerable populations, including safer circulation for the elderly, mobility impaired, very young, and the vision impaired. Highly rated projects will have significant project element related to safety and will not leave major safety considerations unaddressed.

10.2 Secondary Evaluation Criteria

Projects will also be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. If/how much projects contribute to the implementation of sustainable communities strategies and the reduction of vehicle miles traveled and GHGs that may not be quantitatively captured in CARB's Quantification Methodology (QM), discussed in Section 10.1.1.
 - A. Reducing vehicles miles traveled from automobiles and the number of automobile trips beyond what will be achievable via transitridership as captured in the QM and conveyed per #1 and #2 of the Primary Evaluation Criteria.
 - B. Coordinating with local governments to facilitate the location of additional employment and/or housing in the transit stop or station area (e.g., within ½-mile of the transit station or stop that will be affected by the project and the resulting low-carbon impact of such location efficiency on statewide GHG emissions relative to the status quo). This can be accomplished by using project funding to make station areas and neighborhoods walkable, bikeable, and well-integrated with existing or planned shared mobility and transit services. Evidence that will support this co-benefit will include:
 - Documentation showing the siting of projects with rail stations and major

transit centers located within ½ mile of existing or planned future housing with densities that correlate with higher transit use and lower VMT per household.

- Documentation showing alignment with state housing policies and goals that seek to increase access, reduce transportation costs, improve equity, and overcome the statewide housing crisis. Applicants can demonstrate alignment in one of two ways:

(a) The project will serve a community within ½ mile of a transit station or stop that has received a positive Prohousing Designation Program score, certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development, for one or more of the following Prohousing Policies:

- Policies that promote development consistent with the state planning priorities pursuant to Government Code section 65041.1 (25 CCR 6606 [C][2]).
- Density bonus programs which exceed statutory requirements by 10 percent or more (Sec. 6606[b][1][D]).
- Increasing allowable density in low-density, single-family, residential areas beyond the requirements of state Accessory Dwelling Unit law (e.g., permitting more than one ADU or JADU per single-family lot) (25 CCR 6606 [b][1][E]).
- Documented practice of streamlining housing development at the project level, such as by enabling a by-right approval process or by utilizing statutory and categorical exemptions as authorized by applicable law (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21155.1, 21155.4, 21159.24, 21159.25; Gov. Code, § 65457; Cal Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15303, 15332; Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21094.5, 21099, 21155.2, 21159.28). (25 CCR 6606[b][2][C]).
- Zoning to allow for residential or mixed uses in one or more non-residential zones (e.g., commercial, light industrial) (25 CCR 6606 [b][1][G]).
- Reducing or eliminating parking requirements for residential development as authorized by Government Code section 65852.2; adopting vehicular parking ratios that are less than the relevant ratio thresholds at subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of Government Code section 65915, subdivision (p)(1); or adopting maximum parking requirements at or less than ratios pursuant to Government Code section 65915, subdivision (p). (25 CCR 6606[b][1][F]).
- Measures that reduce costs for transportation-related infrastructure or programs that encourage active modes of transportation or other alternatives to automobiles. Qualifying policies include, but are not limited to, publicly funded programs to expand sidewalks or protect bike/micro-mobility lanes; creation of on-street parking for bikes; transit-related improvements; or establishment of carshare programs. (25 CCR 6606[b][3][E]).
- Modification of development standards and other applicable zoning provisions to promote greater development intensity.

Potential areas of focus include floor area ratio; height limits; minimum lot or unit sizes; setbacks; and allowable dwelling units per acre (25 CCR 6606[b][1][H])

- Rezoning and other policies that support high-density development in Location Efficient Communities. (25 CCR 6606[c][5]).
- Permitting missing middle housing uses (e.g., duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes) by right in existing low-density, single-family residential zones (25 CCR 6606[b][1][B]).
- Establishment of a Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone, as defined in Government Code section 65620, or a housing sustainability district, as defined in Government Code section 66200 (25 CCR 6606[b][1][I]).
- Policies that go beyond state law requirements in reducing displacement of lower income households and conserving existing housing stock that is affordable to lower income households. (25 CCR 6606[c][4]).
- Policy that represents one element of a unified, multifaceted strategy to promote multiple planning objectives, such as efficient land use, access to public transportation, affordable housing, climate change solutions, and/or hazard mitigation (25 CCR 6606[c][1]).
- Establishment of pre-approved or prototype plans for missing middle housing types (e.g., duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes) in low-density, single-family residential areas (25 CCR 6606[b][3][G]).
- Adoption of ordinances or implementation of other mechanisms that result in less restrictive requirements than Government Code sections 65852.2 and 65852.22 to reduce barriers for property owners to create ADUs/JADUs. Examples of qualifying policies include, but are not limited to, Development standards improvements, dedicated ADU/JADU staff, technical assistance programs, and pre-approved ADU/JADU design packages (25 CCR 6606[b][3][B]).
- Priority permit processing or reduced plan check times for ADUs/JADUs, multifamily housing, or homes affordable to lower- or moderate-income households (25 CCR 6606[b][2][I]).

(b) The applicant engages in affordable, residential transit-oriented development on land owned or leased by the transit agency, or in conjunction with another public agency or private investor making such investments within ½ mile of one or more stations or stops served by the project. To be considered “affordable,” the development must have at least 20% of units reserved for residents with 60% or less AMI. To be “transit-oriented” the housing must be within ½ mile of a transit station or stop and have a density of at least 20 dwelling units per acre. Special consideration may be given to projects which convert surface parking facilities into housing and or job centers, if they are located within ½ mile of a transit stop.

C. Expanding existing rail and public transit systems, to the extent not already captured in

the project being applied for. Specific items that could be covered here include the expected strengthening of the existing system in a manner that will allow future investments in expansion to be considered, or the extent to which additional service may be operated due to the ridership growth achieved throughout the system due to the project, even if the specific location of the needed service increase is not yet identified. The contribution of the project to the acceleration of later phases of rail and transit projects in the region or service area may also be included in this category

- D. Enhancing the connectivity, integration, and coordination of the state's various transit systems, including, but not limited to, regional and local transit systems and the high-speed rail system. This category should be utilized in particular if there are not specific capital investments or planning efforts called out in the project budget that invest in integration, but these benefits are still a co-benefit of the project, such as through contactless open payments or GTFS-RT traveler information systems. This category can also address integration across other modes of transportation, such as connections at/to: airports, bus terminals, ferry terminals, rail stations, active transportation infrastructure and networks, and other shared mobility options (e.g. bikeshare, scooter-share, carshare) that help transit users overcome potential first- and last-mile barriers to transit use.
 - E. Investing in clean vehicle technology, including efforts that will accelerate the adoption of such technology or provide valuable research or demonstration of such technology. When buses will be funded as a part of this project, special consideration will be given to zero emission bus technology.
 - F. Promoting active transportation, by investing in infrastructure, amenities, education and outreach, etc. that will increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking. This includes efforts and investments to increase the safety and mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians. Examples of how this can be accomplished includes (but is not limited to) the following:
 - Bike parking/storage at transit stations and stops
 - Open payment systems integrated with transit
 - Bike lanes and sidewalks to make station areas accessible via active transportation
 - Traffic calming elements at transit stations to make walking and biking a safer and more pleasant experience
 - G. Improving public health, with particular emphasis on elements benefiting the most impacted and disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households. This category should include any air quality impacts of the project not included in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including health benefits from improved regional air quality resulting from the project. The air pollution reductions for this item should be documented using CARB's co-benefit assessment methodologies.
2. Benefit to priority populations. The applicant must evaluate the criteria detailed by CARB (see Attachment 1) and complete the CARB benefit criteria table, to determine whether the project meets criteria for providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to a disadvantaged community, low-income community, and/or low-income households and address a community need pursuant the CARB's Funding Guidelines, and specifically document the manner in which all or part of the project does so. Projects that will be used by residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households should document the nature of such use and its degree of relevance to disadvantaged community, low-income community, and/or low-income household residents in the service areas of the operators benefiting from the project.
 - A. Project applicants should be explicit on the deliberate steps they take to achieve a meaningful level of participation from disadvantaged communities, low-income

communities, and/or low- income households in the planning and design of projects that are intended to address community identified priorities and needs.

- B. As detailed in the CARB Funding Guidelines, Attachment 1, benefits to priority populations can also be demonstrated through community workforce agreements or labor agreements with unions, community-based organizations (CBOs), or other partners. The following are examples from around California that provide more background and context for applicants:
- For transit infrastructure, Community Workforce Agreements (CWAs) are commonly used in California cities where local elected officials see them as a mechanism to maximize the economic benefits of development projects and create jobs for local residents.
 - For transit system expansion, the state’s larger transit agencies (e.g., Los Angeles County Metro, BART, SFMTA, and AC Transit) regularly establish Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for large construction projects.
 - CWAs and PLAs set standards for wages and expand training opportunities for workers, because they include use of the state-certified apprenticeship system and contributions to apprenticeship training trust funds for every hour worked. Some agencies that require PLAs for major subsidized housing developments and transit system expansion projects include targets for local hiring (turning the PLA into a Community Workforce Agreement, or CWA), set goals for apprenticeship utilization, and codify goals for participation of disadvantaged workers to expand access to women and other workers underrepresented in the construction trades.
3. The project priorities developed through the collaboration of two or more rail operators and any memoranda of understanding between state agencies (including intercity rail joint powers authorities) and local or regional rail operators.
 4. Geographic equity, with particular attention by applicants in identifying efforts to address underserved communities within an applicant’s region or service area. The Transportation Agency will separately apply geographic equity considerations at a statewide level.
 5. Consistency with a plan or strategy contained in an adopted Sustainable Communities Strategy, as confirmed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or, in non-MPO regions, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Especially in the case of large capital projects, inclusion in an applicable financially constrained SCS will be noted as evidence of regional funding commitment and enhanced likelihood of successful project delivery. Consistency with the 2018 State Rail Plan service and connectivity goals, if applicable. Projects that are part of a regional network and are considered regionally significant should be noted as such. All referenced documents should be included as an attachment.
 6. Benefits to freight movement, consistent with the Sustainable Freight Action Plan and the goals of the California Freight Mobility Plan, if applicable. In shared passenger/freight rail corridors, use this category to document and discuss GHG reductions from a greater volume of goods movement by rail if applicable.
 7. The extent to which a project has supplemental funding committed to it from non-state sources, with an emphasis on projects that leverage funding from private, federal, local or regional sources that are discretionary.
 8. For expansions of service, the presence and quality of a financial plan that analyzes the financial viability of the proposed service, including the availability of any required operating financial support.

Highly rated projects will address and score highly on multiple secondary evaluation criteria, with clear documentation of claimed benefits. Clear documentation will include data related to

evaluating the claimed benefits to the extent available. Agencies are encouraged to document in the secondary evaluation criteria categories of verifiable greenhouse gas reducing activities associated with a project that are not specifically captured in the primary evaluation categories and in the quantification tools provided by CARB.

10.3 Benefit to Priority Populations

It is a goal of this program to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households. Pursuant to the requirements of SB 535, as amended by AB 1550, the overall California Climate Investments Program funded with Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds must result in: (1) a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the GGRF to projects located within, and benefiting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities, (2) an additional minimum of 5% to projects that benefit low-income households or to projects located within, and benefiting individuals living in, low-income communities located anywhere in the state, and (3) an additional minimum of 5% either to projects that benefit low-income households that are outside of, but within a 1/2 mile of, disadvantaged communities, or to projects located within the boundaries of, and benefiting individuals living in, low-income communities that are outside of, but within a 1/2 mile of, disadvantaged communities.

Information on California Climate Investments to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities with background on SB 535, AB 1550 and the CalEPA California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool 3.0 (CalEnviroScreen), can be found at:

<https://calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/GHGInvest/>

In addition to contributing benefits towards meeting or exceeding the AB 1550 investment minimums, the TIRCP has a statutory investment target for benefits to disadvantaged communities required by SB 862 (a 25% minimum). This applies across the entire program regardless of funding source. Agencies are responsible for documenting compliance with these requirements.

Investments that are eligible to be counted toward AB 1550 as projects within and benefiting disadvantaged communities will also count toward meeting the SB 862 requirements. Refer to criteria in Funding Guidelines (further referenced below) for how to demonstrate benefit.

SB 862 requires CARB, in consultation with CalEPA, to develop funding guidelines for all agencies that are appropriated monies from the GGRF. These guidelines must include a component for how administering agencies should maximize benefits for disadvantage communities. The CARB funding guidelines are referenced in Attachment 1.

Applicants must complete and submit the CARB Benefit Criteria Table with their application.

In reviewing efforts to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households, CalSTA may request review of applications by an advisory panel representing such stakeholders during the evaluation of applications. The primary goal of this panel will be to review proposed efforts (both pre-application and those proposed for the post-award period) and to either confirm that the applicant efforts will help align the proposed project with stakeholder and community needs, or to recommend efforts that would allow such needs to be addressed (see items 9 and 10 in section 9 describing how such efforts may be requested and funded as part of project selection).

For the **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve**, the application evaluation process is reflected in Addendum 1 to these guidelines.

For the **Major Projects Project Development Reserve**, the application evaluation process is reflected in Addendum 2 to these guidelines.

For **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects**, the application evaluation process is reflected in Addendum 3 to these guidelines.

11 Project Selection Process

CalSTA will evaluate applications for compliance with the objectives of the program, including those provided in AB 180, and rate them based on the Primary and Secondary Criteria, assigning ratings such as “High,” “Medium- High,” “Medium,” “Medium-Low”, and “Low” to the specific alignment of the project to each of the selection criteria, and also considering the cost per ton of CO_{2e} reduction and the risks of successful project delivery. Because of the wide variety in the type and size of projects that can be funded from this program, CalSTA may group projects for the purpose of comparing the ratings of like applications or for purposes of comparing projects within a region. In addition, projects with clear phases or scalability may be evaluated for the portion of the project that would receive the highest rating if partial funding for the project is under consideration. The highest rated applications that meet the program objectives will be selected for programming, except that CalSTA may make adjustments to meet the AB 1550 goals of this program and to provide for geographic equity.

In addition to being evaluated on the aforementioned criteria and benefit to priority populations, including addressing community needs, each application will also be assessed to determine the risk associated with the project's capacity to generate, as planned, transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits (including potential sensitivity to different project benefit outcomes), and to be delivered within budget, on time, and as designed.

Additional factors to be considered include:

1. The overall need and benefit of the project in the context of its contribution to advancing later phases of the project, other aspects of a region's long-range plans or towards improving the state's interregional transportation network.
2. Project readiness and reasonableness of the schedule for project implementation, including the following:
 - A. Progress towards achieving environmental protection requirements.
 - B. The comprehensiveness and sufficiency of agreements with key partners (particularly infrastructure owning railroads) that will be involved in implementing the project.
 - C. For projects that are not fully funded through construction due to funding contingencies (such as federal or local measure funds), the timing and amount of the project's future non-committed investments.
3. The leveraging and coordination of funding from other greenhouse gas reduction programs such as Caltrans' Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, the SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program or the CARB's Low Carbon Transportation funding program. The leveraging and coordination of funding from other private, federal, state (including SB1 funding programs like State Rail Assistance), local or regional sources, with consideration of those sources that are discretionary compared to those that are non-discretionary.
4. The alignment to the State Rail Plan, where relevant, which articulates a vision and specific service and delivery goals for coordinating schedules and physical infrastructure to deliver an integrated network by leveraging available resources.
5. The coordination of project development and delivery efforts in a regional and megaregional context to support an integrated, statewide rail and transit network. This should be articulated in the context of network integration and those agencies applying specifically for network integration funds or projects will be evaluated on their ability to describe the process for delivering an integrated project and its associated benefits.

Highly rated projects will clearly communicate a compelling need for the project in terms of specific benefits for the public and will demonstrate a high degree of project readiness with few risks related to proceeding into construction and operating services that achieve the proposed benefits once the project is completed. Most highly rated projects will have an approved environmental document. Those projects that are requesting TIRCP funds to complete the project's funding package (when combined with already committed other funds) will clearly communicate the acceleration in project delivery possible due to receipt of TIRCP funding even if the project may ultimately have been advanced with future local

and state resources at a later date. Highly rated projects will quantify the benefits of such acceleration as part of the project application.

CalSTA will collaborate with other state entities when evaluating project proposals, including but not limited to: CARB, CalEPA, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, Caltrans, the Commission, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Strategic Growth Council.

CalSTA, or Caltrans acting on CalSTA's behalf, may request additional documentation to support statements or data provided in the applications. However, applicants should endeavor to be as clear as possible in their applications and not assume that opportunity will be provided to clarify or better support a submitted application. Supporting documentation should include spreadsheets, reports and methodology descriptions (with sources noted) when available.

Applications will proceed through a multi-step review process:

1. Basic screening for completeness and eligibility.
2. Review of application for potential subdivision into project phases or components, review and analysis of ridership and GHG quantification, and summarization of project to assist technical panel review.
3. Initial rating of projects on each primary and secondary evaluation criterion (see section 10) and other additional factors (above in this section) described in the guidelines by multi-agency technical panels.
4. Consideration of technical panel ratings, geographic equity and degree of disadvantaged and/or low-income community benefits by a senior executive panel, with potential to request additional information from subject matter experts that may result in a revised rating on one or more evaluation criteria or factors.
5. Project selection by CalSTA, taking into consideration cross-cutting and comparative selection criteria that consider overall program objectives, geographic equity and exceeding program goals for benefits to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households.

For the **Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve**, the project selection process is reflected in Addendum 1 to these guidelines.

12 Programming

CalSTA will publish its updated 5-year Program of Projects as part of the Cycle 6 award announcement, as established in the Call for Projects, and will present it to the Commission shortly thereafter. When CalSTA releases the program, it will include a narrative for each approved project that describes that project's rating for primary and secondary criteria as well as special considerations to achieve disadvantaged and/or low-income community benefit and geographic equity. Subsequent 5-year programs are expected to be approved by CalSTA biennially. CalSTA may call for additional applications, or adjust the existing Program of Projects between cycles, as warranted based on the level of auction proceeds.

CalSTA will develop and regularly update the Program Allocation Plan to guide the allocation of funds for the current program. The Program Allocation Plan for each fiscal year will include the amount to be funded from the TIRCP, and the estimated total cost of each project. The yearly allocation amounts will be based on the needs of separable project components and phases or based on the cash flow needs for projects that need multiple years to complete.

CalSTA will program and the Commission will allocate funding to projects in whole thousands of dollars and will include a project or project component only if it is fully funded from a combination of TIRCP and other committed funding. Funds will be considered as committed when they are programmed by CalSTA, when the agency or other funding partner with discretionary authority over the funds has made its commitment

to the project by ordinance, resolution or appropriate contract vehicle. In the case of the Federal Transit Administration, recommendation of the project for funding in the *Annual Report on Funding Recommendations* for the Capital Investment Program is considered a commitment of funding. For federal formula funds, including Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, and federal formula transit funds, the funding commitment may be by Federal approval of the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

For projects seeking federal discretionary funds such as New Starts, Core Capacity, or Small Starts, the commitment may take the form of federal acceptance into Accelerated Project Delivery and Development (in the case of Small Starts) with the expectation of federal approval of an Expedited Grant Agreement, or federal approval of a project to enter Engineering (in the case of New Starts or Core Capacity) with the expectation of federal approval of a Full Funding Grant Agreement, as long as all funding, excluding TIRCP funding, is committed to the project. Similar pursuit of Federal Railroad Administration and United States Department of Transportation funding for rail-related grant programs may also be referenced and pursued for match, including applications that request funding for awards that are contingent on receiving such federal funding. A project that is programmed prior to receiving federal approval for construction may be subject to deletion from the program, if federal funds are not received, federal funding is reduced or the scope of the federal commitment changes, unless other committed funding sources are identified that replace federal funding not obtained. Applicants considering a request for an award based on a commitment contingent on federal or local funds not yet awarded to the project, as described above, should anticipate the call for 2022 TIRCP projects by November 2021.

For local funding, the funding commitment may be demonstrated by inclusion of the project in a funding package, such as a sales tax measure, to be submitted to voters during this program cycle and with sufficient funding specified for the project to achieve full funding. The applicant shall provide evidence with the application that the project is included in a future funding package with funds sufficient to meet the local funding commitment when combined with other already available funds. A project that is programmed prior to receiving voter approval for project funding must succeed in receiving the voter approval, or the project may be subject to deletion from the program.

For projects with other funding partners that have entered into a contract vehicle committing their funding, access to the funding must occur before TIRCP funding will be approved for allocation to the project.

CalSTA may make an exception to its policy to only program a project if it is fully funded, if the project may be funded from a combination of TIRCP and other committed funding to allow a project to compete for funding from other greenhouse gas reduction programs (such as Caltrans' Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, the SGC's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program or the CARB's Low Carbon Transportation funding program) or from the Commission's Active Transportation or State Transportation Improvement Programs. A project intending to compete for funding in one of the aforementioned programs should indicate, if applicable, the separable elements to be funded from that source. A project that is programmed prior to receiving a commitment of funding from one of the aforementioned programs must receive the funding commitment no later than in the fiscal year in which the project is requesting a TIRCP allocation. If the project does not receive funding from that program and the project does not have separable elements, the project may be subject to deletion from the program.

If a project does not receive their anticipated federal, local or other funding commitments, CalSTA may delete the project from the program and consider selection of projects or components of projects that were highly rated but not selected due to lack of sufficient funds from previous rounds of TIRCP applications as long as the project is still viable and deliverable consistent with prior cycle programming and demonstrates acceptable levels of benefits with the most current quantification methodologies.

If, prior to seeking a Commission allocation, an award recipient does not make adequate progress to implement an awarded project in a timely manner or incurs delays through the action or inaction of the recipient, subrecipient or 3rd party associates, the project may be deleted from the TIRCP program. An applicant may resubmit a deleted project for consideration in future funding cycle. All current projects

are subject to review prior to the Call for Projects to determine whether they are making adequate progress towards implementing the originally awarded project scope.

13 Allocations and Project Delivery

When an agency is ready to implement a project or project component, the agency will submit an allocation request through Caltrans' Division of Rail and Mass Transportation (DRMT). Allocation requests are expected to adhere to the preparation schedule established by Caltrans Office of California Transportation Commission Liaison (OCTCL) along with any additional time required for CalSTA's review and approval of a recommendation to the Commission for an allocation of funds. For planning by an award recipient, the time required from the submittal and approval of an allocation request can range from 60 to 90 days prior to date of a scheduled Commission meeting.

Caltrans will review the request and determine whether to recommend the request to the Commission for action. The Commission will consider the allocation of funds for a project only when it receives an allocation request with a recommendation from Caltrans and consistent with the TIRCP Program Allocation Plan. The recommendation will include a determination of project readiness, completion of funded phases that require completion prior to proceeding into the next phase, the availability of appropriated funding, and the availability of all identified and committed funding needed to support the specific allocation request. When Caltrans develops the project's construction allocation recommendation(s), the Commission expects Caltrans to certify the project's plans, specifications and estimates are complete, right-of-way clearances are achieved, and all necessary permits and agreements (including railroad construction and maintenance) are executed.

In compliance with Section 21150 of the PRC, the Commission will not allocate funds for design, right-of-way, or construction prior to documentation of environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act and all needed environmental documents are provided for a Commission E-Resolution. As a matter of policy, the Commission will not allocate funds for design, right-of-way, or construction of a federally funded project prior to documentation of environmental clearance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Exceptions to this policy may be made in instances where federal law allows for the acquisition of right-of-way prior to completion of NEPA review. If requested by the Commission, Caltrans will assist Commission staff in the preparation of agenda items presenting environmental documents to the Commission.

Projects that are awarded funding for network integration are to be allocated under the construction phase, unless such efforts are part of a task within an earlier phase of work. If allocated as a separable work effort, at the time of allocation, an agency must either environmentally clear the network integration work, usually with a Notice of Exemption, or provide a written statement certifying that the network integration project is exempt.

CalSTA will request the Commission approve the allocation, if the funds are available as determined by CalSTA and Caltrans, and the allocation is necessary to implement the project as included in the adopted TIRCP Program Allocation Plan and Program of Projects. If there are insufficient program funds to approve an allocation, CalSTA may delay the recommendation to allocate funds to a project until a future fiscal year without requiring a Commission action. Agencies should not request Commission allocations unless prepared to award contracts related to the allocation within six months. Funds available following the deletion of a project may be re-awarded and allocated to a programmed project advanced from a future fiscal year or to a project amended into the program.

Details and instructions for the allocation, transfer and liquidation of funds allocated to implementing agencies are included in the Procedures for Administering Local Grant Projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/forms/local-assistance-procedures-manual-forms>

The TIRCP is a reimbursement program for costs incurred. Costs incurred prior to Commission allocation and, for federally funded projects, federal project approval (i.e. Authorization to Proceed), are not eligible for reimbursement. Moreover, contracts against which reimbursements from TIRCP will be sought may not

be awarded prior to funding allocation without specific pre-approval by CalSTA and approval of a Letter of No Prejudice by the Commission. For the procurement of rolling stock and buses, the exercising of an option or the certification of funds for TIRCP funded contract elements after Commission action may be considered to meet the milestone for contract award, provided that the agency is under no contractual obligation to pay any funds or penalty if the option is not exercised or the funds not certified. Confirmation of this approach should be sought prior to seeking an allocation of funds.

Caltrans will execute all appropriate contractual agreements with the implementing agency, under its delegated authority from CalSTA. These agreements may include project specific conditions required by CalSTA's award announcement and will be based on the awarded scope of work, schedule for completion and expected outcome of the project.

Prior to the completion of project design, an agency may propose to CalSTA modifications to the proposed project in order to achieve the same or greater level of benefits or reduced costs. Funds allocated for project development or right-of-way costs must be expended by the end of the fiscal year of allocation plus two additional fiscal years, unless a longer timeframe is requested at the time of allocation or the Commission approves a time extension subsequent to the allocation. Allocations for award are valid for six months from the date of allocation unless otherwise indicated at the time of allocation. For funds allocated for construction phase contracts, including rolling stock procurement, will have an expenditure timeline of 36 months after the award of a contract to complete (accept) the contract unless a longer timeframe is requested at the time of allocation or the Commission approves a time extension subsequent to the allocation. The implementing agency must submit a final invoice to Caltrans no later than 180 days after contract acceptance.

Additional details relevant to the Commission's Allocation Policy can be found in Resolution G-20-61 on the Commission's website.

13.1 Letter of No Prejudice

An agency may apply for a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) for a project or for any component of a project included in the approved Program of Projects. Statutory authority is provided in Section 75225 of the PRC as added by SB 9. The Commission as authorized by statute adopted guidelines for approval of LONPs for specific programs, including the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. All LONP requests must follow the Commission's currently adopted LONP guidelines. Any request for an LONP will be submitted through Caltrans for concurrence by CalSTA and Commission approval.

If an LONP is approved by the Commission, it allows the implementing agency to award a 3rd party contract(s) and advance a project by expending its own funds (incur reimbursable expenses) for any component of the project that is the subject of the LONP prior to allocation. The amount will be reimbursed if all the following conditions are met:

1. The project or project component for which the letter of no prejudice was requested has commenced and the expenditures have been incurred.
2. The expenditures are eligible for reimbursement in accordance with applicable laws and procedures. If expenditures made by the lead applicant agency are determined to be ineligible, the state has no obligation to reimburse those expenditures.
3. The agency complies with all legal requirements for the project, including the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000)).
4. There are moneys in the GGRF or from SB 1 revenues designated for the program that are sufficient to make the reimbursement payment.

13.2 Multiyear Funding Agreement

An agency may apply to CalSTA for a multiyear funding agreement. Statutory authority is provided in Section 75224 (d) of the PRC. Any such agreements shall be implemented in

cooperation with the Commission by inclusion of the anticipated multi-year cash flow commitment in the applicable allocation action at the time a project or project component is allocated. If approved by CalSTA, the multiyear funding agreement would operate similar to a federal Full Funding Grant Agreement, wherein an agency may receive an allocation and implement a project at risk, with receipt of future state revenue dependent on legislative appropriation and/or receipt of program SB 1 revenue or Cap-and- Trade auction proceeds. The state would not be responsible for any borrowing costs an agency may incur, or other costs, allocated with the timeline of state revenue availability. The most up-to-date cash flow commitments to projects or project components are reflected in the Program Allocation Plan.

Pursuant to Section 75224, the multiyear funding agreement would be for an amount of program money and for any duration, as determined jointly by the CalSTA and the applicant. CalSTA may agree to a duration that exceeds the five-year programming cycle, if deemed helpful in completing large transformative capital projects. Other requirements for the program will be included in the multiyear funding agreement as determined by CalSTA in cooperation with the applicant and the Commission.

13.3 Project Delivery Deadline Extensions and Timely Use of Funds

Once an awardee has been allocated TIRCP funding, funds are subject to the Commission's timely use of funds policy and for the construction phase, awardees are expected to execute the third-party contract within six months of the allocation. Under CalSTA concurrence and with Commission action, an extension may be granted for the period of contract award, project completion or project reimbursement if it finds that an unforeseen or extraordinary circumstance has occurred that justifies the extension. The extension will not exceed the period of delay directly attributable to the extraordinary circumstance.

There are separate deadlines, for award of a contract, for project completion and project reimbursement and each project component has its own deadlines.

All requests for project delivery deadline extensions should be submitted by the agency responsible for project delivery to Caltrans at least 60 days prior to the specific deadline for which the particular extension is requested (e.g., 60 days prior to June 30 to request the extension of allocation deadlines). The extension request should describe the specific circumstance that justifies the extension and identify the delay directly attributable to that circumstance. Caltrans will review extension requests and provide a recommendation to CalSTA for concurrence and then submit to the Commission for formal approval.

After the Commission allocation, any costs incurred for eligible work will not be reimbursed until the appropriate agreements (Master Agreement and Project Supplement/Amendment) with the local agency have been executed and must remain in effect over the time required to complete capital improvements, implement services and fulfill the reporting requirements of benefits and outcomes associated with the award.

14 Project Reporting

As a condition of the project selection and allocation, the implementing agency must submit to Caltrans quarterly reports on the activities and progress made toward implementation of the project and a final delivery report. The purpose of the reports is to ensure that the project achieves the goals of the program, is executed in a timely fashion, and is within the scope and budget identified when the decision was made to fund the project.

Recordkeeping and reporting requirements will apply through the life of the project. All recordkeeping and reports must be consistent with the reporting requirement, quantification methodologies and records retention periods developed by CARB (see Attachments 1, 2 and 3). At a minimum, agencies must report on

all projects selected for funding, progress on each funded project, and the benefits (GHG and co-benefits) achieved. Implementing agencies should note that additional Project Outcome Reporting may be required and is subject to modification based on the evolving needs of the program. Caltrans may provide assistance through Cal-ITP on real-time information and payments to streamline reporting requirements. For projects benefiting disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households, reports must identify and include metrics to demonstrate the benefits being achieved and how community needs are being met, consistent with CARB's Funding Guidelines. Some reported project information will be publicly available on the CARB website, including the amount of funding that is being spent on projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households.

Consistent with CARB's Funding Guidelines, local agencies will now be required to report on job co-benefits, in addition to all other reporting requirements. Job co-benefits refer to California jobs supported, not created, by California Climate Investments. Jobs supported by California Climate Investments include direct, indirect, and induced employment.

At the time of application, applicants are required to submit a job co-benefit modeling tool, which is based upon a co-benefit assessment methodology developed by CARB. Once an awarded project has been implemented, funding recipients will also be required to report actual (not modeled) jobs data via the semi-annual reporting process.

Within one year of the project becoming operable, or a later time period if approved by CalSTA, the implementing agency must provide a final delivery report to Caltrans which includes:

1. The scope of the completed project as compared to the programmed project.
2. Performance outcomes derived from the project as compared to those described in the project application. This should include before and after measurements and estimates (ridership/service levels, greenhouse gas reductions included updated estimates the greenhouse gas reductions over the life of the project, benefit to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households, project co-benefits, etc.), and an explanation of the methodology used to quantify the benefits.
3. Before and after photos documenting the project.
4. The final costs as compared to the approved project budget by component and fund type, and an estimate of the TIRCP funds spent to benefit disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households.
5. Its duration as compared to the project schedule in the project application.

For all projects other than components that fund limited-term operations of new and expanded transit service, annual reporting on outcomes will continue for 36 months after becoming operational (i.e., vehicle or equipment is operational, or construction is complete and transit service is operational). The metrics to be reported vary by project type as shown in the table below.

Capital Improvements that Result in New or Expanded Transit Service or Increase Mode Share on Existing Transit Service		
Metric	Unit	Method
Tracking dates of data submission	mm/dd/yyyy	n/a
Days of operation per year	Days/year	Evaluation of service schedule
Average daily ridership	Unlinked trips/day	Ridership survey (conducted by city, county, district/authority, metropolitan planning organization, non-profit, or academia), ticket and transit pass sales, automatic passenger counter, driver counts, etc.
New Vehicle(s) for Existing Transit Service		
Metric	Unit	Method
Tracking dates of data submission	mm/dd/yyyy	n/a
Fuel/energy consumption or vehicle miles traveled	Gallons/year by fuel type, kWh/year, scf/year, or vehicle miles traveled/year	Evaluation of fueling, utility, mileage, or other operating records
Range in fuel/energy consumption or annual vehicle miles traveled		

Upon request from the implementing agency, Caltrans may consider requests to delay reporting on before and after or other performance outcome data until two years after project operation if similar data is requested by the Federal Transit Administration or if the agency deems such delay would improve the reliability of the report.

For the purpose of this section, a project becomes operable when the construction contract is accepted or acquired equipment is received.

The State of California has the right to review project documents and conduct audits during project implementation and over the life of the project. Caltrans or another State agency may audit a sample of TIRCP projects to evaluate the performance of the project, determine whether project costs incurred and reimbursed are in compliance with the executed project agreement or approved amendments thereof; state and federal laws and regulations; contract provisions; and program guidelines, and whether project deliverables (outputs) and outcomes are consistent with the project scope, schedule, and benefits described in the executed project agreement or approved amendments thereof. A report on the projects audited must be submitted by the auditing agency to CalSTA.

For the **Major Projects Project Development Reserve**, the project reporting process is reflected in Addendum 2 to these guidelines.

For **High Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects**, the project reporting process is reflected in Addendum 3 to these guidelines.

15 Project Administration

Caltrans will administer the TIRCP consistent with these guidelines and all applicable Commission and Caltrans policies and procedures for the administration of similar grant programs.

Projects awarded funding from TIRCP are expected to document and publicize the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program in proper context when developing press releases and board documents, or in hosting public events such as project groundbreakings. References should be made to TIRCP, the California State Transportation Agency as the program sponsor, and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and SB 1 program as fund sources, as applicable, in order to ensure transparency regarding the funding of the project. Additional details will be provided to program award recipients.

Agencies must encumber and expend monies consistent with State law and ensure that GGRF monies are utilized consistent with the expenditure record submitted by Caltrans and required by SB 1018. A determination that use of GGRF monies is not consistent with the expenditure record and does not

further the purposes of AB 32 may occur during legal proceedings or during an audit or program review conducted by the Bureau of State Audits, Department of Finance, a third-party auditor, or the CARB. Depending on the outcome of those proceedings or review, agencies may be required to return monies to the state if expenditures are not consistent with the statutory requirements (such as not furthering the purposes of AB 32).

Audits and on-site monitoring can take place at any time at the discretion of CalSTA, without prior warning given to the agency. CalSTA has the right to audit the project records, including technical and financial data of the Project Applicant, the Implementing Agency, and any consultant or sub-consultants at any time after award, during the course of the project and for three years from the date of the final closeout of the project, therefore all project records shall be maintained and made available at the time of request.

The state may terminate the grant for any reason at any time if it learns of or otherwise discovers that there are allegations supported by reasonable evidence that a violation of any state or federal law or policy by the grantee which affects performance of this or any other grant agreement or contract entered into with the State. If a grant is terminated, the agency may be required to fully or partially repay funds from the TIRCP.

16 Project Expenditures

Caltrans and CalSTA reserve the right to ask any agency to complete a Cash Flow projections form. The form includes collecting the subtotal for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Project Approval & Environmental Document, Plans, Specifics & Estimates, Right of Way and Construction. For more information on retrieving the Cash Flow form, please contact tircpcomments@dot.ca.gov.

Addendum 1: Information Specific to the Existing TIRCP Projects Leveraging Federal and Local Funds Reserve

1. Specific project information required to apply for supplemental funding

The following information is required to apply for additional funding for an existing TIRCP project originally awarded funds in 2020 or earlier.

- A. **Project and Applicant Identification:** Applicant shall state which project is seeking additional funds, identifying the Cycle 1 through 4 project and the whether the funding is needed for the full project scope or for a subcomponent. Most projects should request funding for the full scope, unless partial construction is already fully-funded, and the requested funding is only needed for the remaining construction elements. The applicant must match the original applicant, even if additional parties are involved in receiving funding allocations as implementing agencies.
- B. **Demonstration of Project Eligibility:** Applicant shall demonstrate that a supplemental state grant would leverage or maintain an identified source of significant local or federal investment.
 - Maintaining funding includes seeking funding for projects that are under construction and will lose access to committed federal funds unless additional non-federal funds are identified. If specific information has been communicated from the federal partner that such an issue must be resolved by a particular deadline, applicant shall provide written documentation of such a requirement.
 - Leveraging funding includes seeking funding for projects that need additional state funds in order to successfully receive a future federal or local funding commitment. Documentation of the required timeline shall be provided for the particular partner to solidify the timing and program of an expected future funding commitment. This can include written documentation (e.g. letters, federal reports) from the federal partner that states intended timeframe for entering into agreements such as a Full Funding Grant Agreement (or equivalent, if applicable). It can also include identification of federal or local funding programs for which one or more applications will be submitted, the timing and requirements of such expected funding decisions, and the manner in which the project qualifies for funding.
- C. **Proposal for Additional Funding:** Statement of revised financial plan for the project, including all planned sources for returning to fully funded status. Include an explanation of the categories experiencing cost growth and the primary reasons for such growth, as well as a cash flow demonstrating the timing of the requirement for additional funding. Projects that have the option of implementing a portion of their project with reduced additional funding shall include such scenarios in the proposal. If an agency is submitting multiple requests for additional project funding, priorities and scenarios across the multiple requests must be included. Such applicants are encouraged to submit a single application that includes all requests and discusses the timing and request for funding across all projects. Applicants are also encouraged to identify what role the expected FY23-24 and FY24-25 funding identified in SB 198 of the Budget Act of 2021 (totaling \$4 billion and allocated regionally) could play in addressing a

portion of the need for existing project funding, and whether the use of such funds would change the funding proposal.

- D. **Impact of Funding on Project Benefits:** Applicants must state the impact of receiving the requested funding on achieving project benefits. If projects have already fully funded a portion of the project construction for partial benefit, the applicant shall quantify the additional benefits tied to the additional funding request. If a portion of the project benefits can be achieved with a smaller funding request, the applicant shall discuss the revised project benefits in the context of the original application. If additional benefits are expected to be realized as a result of completing the original project compared to the those known when the original application was submitted, the applicant is encouraged (but not required) to quantify and describe such additional benefits.
- E. **Statement of Outcomes if Project Does Not Receive Adequate Funding:** Applicant shall indicate the expected outcomes if the project does not receive adequate funding.

If further information is needed to clarify the submitted information, such requests will be made on an as-needed basis by either Caltrans or CalSTA. The current calendar for the funding round provides a date by which to communicate questions to applicants (December 20, 2022) with responses required by January 13, 2023, but this communication will only be used if necessary. All project applicants may not receive questions if the original information submitted is clear.

Note that any project proposing partial completion will become eligible to submit the remaining project scope as a new project in future TIRCP cycles. Note also that eligible projects are not expected to include expanded scope in their application to this set-aside program.

2. Project Evaluation and Project Selection

Project evaluation will include a combined technical and executive level evaluation by Caltrans and CalSTA that evaluates the submitted materials by region (Southern California and the rest of the state), including, but not limited to:

- a. Considering the potential loss of funds and the timing of such loss
- b. Considering the timing and likelihood of obtaining the additional matching funds needed to return the project to full funding
- c. Considering whether partial completion may be achieved for any of the projects submitted, and whether the remainder of the project may be able to receive funding from future available funding programs (local, state and federal)
- d. Considering geographic balance within the relevant region

If additional information is needed, requests for such information will be provided no later than December 20, 2022.

Project selection by the Secretary will prioritize avoiding the loss of funds for projects actively under construction, as well as the solidifying of funding commitments for projects closest to the beginning of construction.

Addendum 2: Information Specific to the Major Projects Project Development Reserve

1. Specific project information required to apply for funding

The following information is required to apply for major projects project development set-aside funding under TIRCP:

- A. **Project and Applicant Identification:** While projects and programs of projects do not need to be ready for construction, applicants are required to identify how their project or program of projects will be eligible to apply for TIRCP construction funding in the future. If the project would not be eligible to apply for TIRCP as a new project, it will not qualify for funding for project development.
- B. **Demonstration of Federal Funding Program Eligibility:** Applicant shall demonstrate that they have entered into, or have applied to enter into, federal project development processes for at least a portion of the project or program of projects, and that they expect to receive federal funding in the future once complete with project development. If the applicant expects to be able to leverage state funding to provide the match necessary to obtain federal planning funds, this should also be identified.

2. Application Materials

- A. Project title, which should be a brief non-technical description of the project type, scope, and location.
- B. Project priority (if agency is submitting multiple applications). Explain the prioritization, including any state, regional or local planning efforts that support the ranking.
- C. Project purpose and need.
- D. Expected project scope.
- E. Project Location – provide a map for each of the following:
 - Project location denoting the project site. Provide a KML file for the project with the transit route/project location represented by lines and stops represented by points as applicable.
 - Project location denoting disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households that will benefit from the project (Attachment 1, CCI Funding Guidelines).
- F. Greenhouse gas reducing features such as project components that improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions along a specific corridor, surrounding land use density, housing and employment centers, transit- oriented development/sustainable communities strategy projects, active transportation infrastructure and other features, to the extent available. If available, consider including the following information on maps related to the project, as these will help in evaluating many of the secondary evaluation criteria:
 - Land use diversity/mix of land uses specified on the map
 - In addition to showing where housing exists, provide information on housing density *and* planned/zoned/permitted/etc. housing density;
 - In addition to illustrating existing employment centers, provide information on employment density, mix of employment types, and planned future employment

- land uses.
 - Current neighborhood walkability (e.g., see Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) guidelines for sources of walkability data);
 - Planned and existing active transportation infrastructure (what currently exists, what is planned, and what would be funded by the project)
- G. Expected total project costs, as well as the costs for the project development work requested in the application for funding, including the following:
 - Documentation of the basis for the costs, benefits and schedules must be cited in the project application and additional detail made available upon request. The application should identify:
 - Cost estimates escalated to the year of proposed delivery. Only cost estimates approved by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorized officer of the implementing agency should be used.
 - The amount and source of funds committed to the project, if any.
- H. The amount of TIRCP funds requested
- I. Project schedule, the project's current status and the completion dates of all major delivery milestones.
- J. Expected benefits of the project when constructed, including details on any of the project benefits that address the Primary and Secondary Evaluation Criteria for fully constructed projects listed under Project Selection Process (Section 10), indicating that a category is not applicable, or no benefits are expected when that is the case.
- K. Identify and include as an attachment any studies or planning documents relevant to the proposed project.
- L. If applicable, an explanation of how some or all of the project is expected to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to a disadvantaged community, low income communities or low-income households as defined by [SB 535](#) and [AB 1550](#)
- M. If an agency plans to engage in additional efforts to consult with disadvantaged or low-income stakeholders as part of project development, a specific task and budget for the proposed activities should be included in the project application. Activities that address community engagement may include, but are not limited to, public workshops/meetings, door-to-door canvassing, house meetings, established website and/or social media efforts, surveys, focus groups, subcontracts with community-based organizations to conduct outreach, allocation of staff or contractor positions focused on community engagement, and advisory bodies or other shared decision-making bodies.
- N. Address the ability to gather and analyze new datasets for public use and benefit as an outcome of the project.
- O. Each application must include an Electronic Project Programming Request (ePPR) Form that can be generated at <https://calsmart.dot.ca.gov> and choosing 'Other' funds option on the general information page. A users guide for generating the ePPR can be found at: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/financial-programming/documents/eppr-instructions-v101-a11y.pdf>
For further helps with ePPRs, please email: eppr@dot.ca.gov.

Each Project Programming Request must list Federal, State, and local funding categories by fiscal year. All applicants must demonstrate the ability to absorb any cost overruns and deliver the proposed project with no additional funding from this program beyond that provided in initial grant or cooperative agreement, and to fund initial operating costs. If the project is a scope addition to a project programmed in an earlier TIRCP cycle the revised PPR must not show supplanting of previously committed non-TIRCP funds.

P. Letters of support for project implementation, including letters from:

- Project partners essential to project implementation
- A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), indicating that the project is consistent with an adopted Sustainable Communities Strategy, or in non-MPO regions, a regional plan to reduce GHG emissions and/or vehicle miles travelled (VMT). (It is not necessary to establish project eligibility for an MPO to indicate its specific support for the project.)
- Regional agency or agencies.
- Members of the community, including representatives of impacted disadvantaged or low- income communities. Letters from community organizations stating their recognition of benefits from the project are encouraged.
- Additional stakeholders relevant to the proposed project.

Q. Description of project elements that are separable or scalable based on available funding. Applicants are encouraged to identify which elements could be funded if the full request cannot be addressed.

3. Project Evaluation and Project Selection

Project evaluation will occur within the regular process for evaluating new projects, as described in the main guidelines, with a particular emphasis on identifying the elements of the proposed project development activities that are most likely to successfully advance the project to receive federal funds. Project benefits will be evaluated with less emphasis on quantitative factors, as many of these measures are not required in the application materials.

Project selection by the Secretary will prioritize supporting projects that expect to leverage federal project development funds (for which contingent awards can be provided) or otherwise advance a project or project component to readiness for future federal funding towards construction. Geographic equity will be considered. Applicants are encouraged to have scalable requests to increase the likelihood that projects can receive at least partial support for project development.

4. Project Reporting

Project reporting will include milestone and financial reporting similar to regular TIRCP projects, but will not include reporting tied to operational outcomes and quantification results tied to GGRF funding. Project-related reports shall be provided to Caltrans as detailed in the program supplement. Each program supplement provided to an applicant will detail the relevant project reporting requirements specific to the project.

Addendum 3: Information Specific to the FY 22-23 High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects Funding

1. Background and Authority

As noted in the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) *California State Rail Plan*, at-grade highway-rail crossings – where the highway and railroad tracks are at the same elevation – pose significant public safety hazards to California's motorists and pedestrians. According to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), highway-rail grade crossing incidents, together with incidents caused by trespassing along the railroad right-of-way, account for 94 percent of all rail-related deaths and injuries.

Replacing existing at-grade crossings by constructing grade-separated crossings, whereby either a highway or pathway and a railroad track cross over or under the other at different elevations, significantly increases safety by eliminating potential conflict between trains and highway or pathway users, including vulnerable road users such as bicyclists and pedestrians. Other at-grade crossing safety improvements can include highway traffic signalization, lighting, crossing approach signage, railroad crossing signals, gates, bells, audible warning devices and related methods funded by programs like the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Section 130 program.

Additionally, multiple studies and reports, such as the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) *Railroad Grade Crossing Report to the California State Legislature* (June 2016; responding to Chapter 12, Statutes of 2015 (Assembly Bill 95)) have noted that both grade separations and at-grade improvements can improve freight and passenger rail service (helping create the corridor conditions that support an increase in train frequencies or train speed), making trains more competitive with trucks and passenger vehicles and thereby reducing emissions by encouraging mode shift from trucks and passenger vehicles to rail. In addition, grade separations may reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing the time vehicles spend idling while waiting for trains to pass through at-grade crossings.

In late-June 2022, the California State Legislature provided \$1000 million for Governor Newsom's High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation Projects proposal through Assembly Bill 180 (AB 180; Chapter 44, Statutes of 2022), as well as \$250 million of local assistance funding to Caltrans for grade separation projects. AB 180 also provides policy direction for CalSTA to implement this High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding.

Combined with new funding sources, such as the federal *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), new federal railroad crossing safety programs such as the FRA's *Railroad Crossing Elimination Program*, the Caltrans-administered state programs such as the Section 130 Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing program and the Section 190 Grade Separation program, and other state programs, High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding will continue improving safety at or eliminating at-grade crossings throughout the state.

2. Purpose, Goals and Objectives

As directed by AB 180, High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding seeks to maximize safety benefits and reduce or eliminate conflicts between road users and railroads, as well as provide state funding to leverage federal investment for grade crossing improvement and separation projects.

This one-time High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding is intended to advance projects that align with the *California State Rail Plan*, the California Freight Mobility Plan (where applicable), as well as the *Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure* (CAPTI) climate action and equity goals.

3. Schedule

Reflected in schedule for overall General Fund Guidelines

4. Funding

The 2022 Budget includes \$350 million in fiscal year 2022-23 for one-time High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding (\$100 million CalSTA and \$250 million Caltrans). CalSTA and Caltrans intend to award the entire \$350 million in a single cycle, although it may hold a funding reserve for purposes of matching future federal awards or select projects that are next in line for funding should projects not receive their full funding as a result of not being selected for federal funding as applied for. A portion of this funding may be awarded and allocated to projects through CalSTA's Port and Freight Infrastructure Program in accordance with the guidelines for that program.

5. Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible applicants for all projects permitted under this notice:

- a. A unit of local government or a group of local governments (including Joint Powers Authorities)
- b. A maritime port
- c. A metropolitan planning organization (MPO)
- d. A federally recognized Native American Tribe
- e. A group of entities described in any of paragraphs (a) through (f)

Public agencies may partner with private operators of projects, such as freight railroads, to implement an eligible project. However, one public agency should be clearly identified as the lead agency for entering into contract with CalSTA, including receiving reimbursements of allocated funds and making payments to contractors.

6. Eligible Projects

The following highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement and separation projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods are eligible for High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding:

1. Grade separation or closure, including through the use of a bridge, embankment, tunnel, or combination thereof;
2. Track relocation;
3. The improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures that improve safety, provided that such activities are related to a separation or relocation project described in items (1) or (2);
4. Other means to improve the safety and mobility of people and goods at highway-rail grade crossings (including technological solutions);
5. A group of related projects described in items (1) through (4) that would collectively improve the mobility of people and goods.

For purposes of this one-time High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding, the following definitions of key terms apply:

- "Grade Separation or Closure" means an underpass or overpass to eliminate level crossings between railroad and highway users at an existing highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing, or the closing of a

highway-rail grade crossing to vehicular, cyclist, or pedestrian traffic.

- “Highway-Rail Grade Crossing” means a location where a public highway, road, street, or private roadway, including associated sidewalks and pathways, crosses one or more railroad tracks at grade.
- “Pathway-Rail Grade Crossing” means a pathway that crosses one or more railroad tracks at grade and that is: (1) explicitly authorized by a public authority or a railroad; (2) dedicated for the use of non-vehicular traffic, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and others; and (3) not associated with a public highway, road, or street, or a private roadway.
- “Track Relocation” means moving a rail line vertically or laterally to a new location in order to eliminate an existing highway-rail grade crossing. “Vertical Relocation” refers to raising above the current ground level or sinking below the current ground level of a rail line. “Lateral Relocation” refers to moving a rail line horizontally to a new location.

High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding may be used for development-phase activities and costs, including planning, feasibility analysis, alternatives analysis, data collection and analysis, environmental review and activities to support environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities, including the preparation of a data collection and post-construction analysis plan; and construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, right-of-way support activities, acquisition of real property (including land relating to the project and improvements to that land), environmental mitigation (including projects to replace or rehabilitate culverts or reduce stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species), construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment (unless otherwise noted in other sections of these guidelines), protection, and operational improvements directly relating to the project. Public-private partnership assessments for projects in the development phase are also eligible costs.

Applicants may apply for multiple projects. However, an applicant submitting multiple project applications must clearly prioritize its project applications.

Projects should be identified in, or consistent with, the California State Rail Plan, an MPO Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), a local agency transportation plan (including general plan circulation elements), or where applicable, the California Freight Mobility Plan. If a project is listed in an existing transportation plan, where applicable, please provide a project identification number. If a project is not listed in an existing transportation plan, project sponsors are strongly encouraged to attain a letter from an MPO or applicable state agency certifying its consistency with the plan and the process and timeline for amending it into the plan in the future.

Special consideration will be given to grade crossing improvement or separation projects that have been analyzed, evaluated and listed as priorities in the CPUCs Section 130 or Section 190 programs.

Applicants are also encouraged to develop segmenting strategies for the project and prioritize the segments within each project application, if applicable, so that available resources may be awarded to a segment or priority if the full grant request cannot be funded. Applicants must have completed the Planning Approval and Environmental Documents phase and Design phase before allocating funds for the Right-of-Way or Construction phases. Applicants must include realistic timelines for expenditure of funds, as the funding for this grant program requires expenditure or encumbrance and liquidation by June 30, 2027. This timing may be a factor in the segments and components of projects selected for award.

Non-planning or non-project development segments of the project must have independent utility. Applicants may find it helpful to submit a single application that describes a programmatic set of inter-related projects rather than submitting multiple applications. Segmenting and priority-setting within such a programmatic

application can then be clearly identified, but the narrative describing the goals and outcomes can be shared. Applicants submitting a high-dollar, single application with no scalability or separable project elements may increase the risk of having an uncompetitive project application. At the same time, applicants are advised to submit projects that are scalable where practical.

Projects are also expected to specify federal and state funding programs they are eligible for and assess their competitiveness in seeking funding from one or more such programs. If a High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation project(s) is awarded funding contingent on receiving federal or state funding that does not materialize in the expected timeframe, that project(s) may be removed from the program of projects awarded funding so that its funding may be awarded to other applications considered but not selected. In addition, CalSTA may choose to establish a reserve of funds at the time of initial project selection that can be used either (1) to provide additional funding for the highest rated projects that pursue, but to do not receive, federal or state funds from such programs, or (2) to provide funding for additional projects not yet awarded funds.

There is not a set limit on the amount of funding that a project can be awarded, but geographic equity considerations may play a practical role in limiting the amount a given applicant and project could expect.

7. Project Applications

Applications will be treated in accordance with Public Records Act requirements and certain information, subject to those requirements, may be publicly disclosed.

Each project application must include a cover letter signed by an authorized official, with signature authorizing approval of the application. The cover letter must clearly identify the project sponsor agency or agencies.

Each project application shall include a one-page or two-page fact sheet describing the project scope, map of the project locations(s), cost, schedule, and benefits, which also includes a brief narrative of how the project would advance the High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding purpose, goals and objectives (Section 2 – Purpose, Goals and Objectives). The fact sheet should be written in “plain language” so a non-technical audience can understand it. It also must include high-quality project pictures or renderings of before and after project development, and the nominating agency or agencies logo(s). The fact sheet may be posted on the CalSTA website.

The project application shall also include:

- 1) Project title
- 2) Overview: Include a brief, one to three paragraph, non-technical description of the project. The description should focus on how the project will advance the purpose, goals and objectives for this High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding (Section 2 – Purpose, Goals and Objectives) and explain the public benefits of completing the project. It should include a brief project background, the project purpose, and the need for the project.
- 3) Map (or maps) of the project location.
- 4) Project priority (if submitting multiple nominations).
- 5) Project scope.
- 6) Project costs: Documentation of the basis for the costs must be cited in the project application and additional detail made available upon request. The application should identify:

A. Cost estimates escalated to the year of proposed delivery. Only cost estimates approved by the implementing agency's Chief Executive Officer or their delegate should be used.

B. The amount and source of funds committed to the project, as well as any funding being pursued from other programs (such as federal *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* funding or another state program) but not yet awarded. If financing is proposed for a portion of the project, indicate the repayment source(s). If there is a large portion of uncommitted or unfunded cost, applicants must explain their plan for obtaining funds and the level of commitment they have towards receiving those funds. The risk of stranded investment will be taken into consideration when selecting projects.

C. The amount of High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funds requested. High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding cannot be used to supplant other committed funds. If any other project elements are eligible for state or federal funding from other programs, also indicate the project scope and cost that is eligible.

7) Project schedule including benefits reporting, the project's current status at the time of application submission and the actual or target completion dates of all major delivery milestones. Identify all potential risks and constraints to delivery of major milestones, including environmental milestones.

8) Project benefits, including (if applicable) an explanation of how the project will provide employment and workforce development and training benefits to the community, particularly to priority populations. This explanation should be accompanied by a Community Workforce Agreement, Project Labor Agreement, or some other agreement made between the applying agency and unions, community-based organizations, or other partners.

9) Independent utility: A project requesting construction funds must have independent utility. If the application is requesting funds for construction and proposing a project segment, then in no more than two paragraphs, explain why the project is being segmented, and why the proposed segment has independent utility.

10) Explanation and evidence of consistency with the California State Rail Plan, an MPO Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), a local agency transportation plan (including general plan circulation elements), or where applicable, the California Freight Mobility Plan: If a project is listed in an existing transportation plan, where applicable, please provide a project identification number. If a project is not listed in an existing transportation plan, project sponsors are strongly encouraged to attain a letter from an MPO or applicable state agency certifying its consistency with the plan and the process and timeline for amending it into the plan in the future. The project does not need to be listed in the RTP/SCS project list to be eligible.

11) Letters of Support for project implementation, such as letters from:

- A. Railroads or Transit Agencies.
- B. Project partners essential to project implementation.
- C. An MPO or RTPA, indicating that the project is consistent with an RTP, an adopted SCS, or in non-MPO regions, a regional plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or vehicle miles traveled.
- D. Regional or local agency or agencies.
- E. Ports.
- E. State agencies.
- F. Members of the community, including representatives of impacted disadvantaged or low-income communities (consistent with the objectives of SB 535 and AB 1550). Letters from community

organizations stating their recognition of benefits from the project are encouraged.

- G. Additional stakeholders relevant to the proposed project.

12) Statement and Documentation of Project Readiness: Indicate the readiness of the project, including information on completion of federal and/or state environmental clearance, as applicable.

8. Project Evaluation Criteria

The criteria below must be addressed. If a criterion is not addressed, it may reduce the likelihood a project will receive High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funds. Include a separate paragraph (or paragraphs) addressing each of the following criteria:

A. Maximize safety benefits and reduce or eliminate conflicts between road users and railroads

CalSTA will assess the project's ability to foster a safe transportation system for the movement of goods and people, with special emphasis given to those projects that contribute to reduction in fatalities and serious injuries across the transportation system. Such considerations will include, but are not limited to, the extent to which the project improves safety at highway-rail grade or pathway-rail crossings, reduces or eliminates conflicts between road users (including vulnerable road users such as bicyclists and pedestrians) and railroads, reduces incidences of rail-related trespassing, and upgrades infrastructure to achieve a higher level of safety.

Project sponsors should articulate, and quantify to the extent possible, hazards at existing at-grade crossings related to their proposed projects that may include information about the history of death or serious injuries occurring at the crossing, vehicle, train and active transportation traffic volumes, grade crossing geometry and other factors; project sponsors should explain how their proposed projects will reduce or eliminate the hazards they have identified.

Special consideration will be given to grade crossing improvement or separation projects that have been analyzed, evaluated and listed as priorities in the CPUC Section 130 or Section 190 programs.

B. Climate change and sustainability

CalSTA will assess the project's ability to reduce the harmful effects of climate change and anticipate necessary improvements to prepare for extreme weather events. Such considerations will include, but are not limited to, the extent to which the project reduces emissions, promotes energy efficiency, increases resiliency, and rehabilitates existing infrastructure.

Both grade separations and at-grade improvements can improve passenger rail service (increasing train frequencies or train speed), making trains more competitive with vehicles and thereby reducing emissions by encouraging mode shift from vehicles to rail. Project sponsors are encouraged to provide qualitative and quantitative information regarding how their proposed projects will reduce GHG emissions.

C. Promote transportation equity

CalSTA seeks to award projects that provide a direct, meaningful, and assured benefit to disadvantaged communities and priority populations, consistent with the objectives of [SB 535](#) and [AB 1550](#). Applicants should also demonstrate how their projects are consistent with the CalSTA's [Statement on Racial Equity, Justice and Inclusion in Transportation](#), including projects that will help achieve a cleaner, safer, and more accessible and connected future.

Scoring in this area will assess the project's ability to address equity and barriers to opportunity. Such considerations will include, but are not limited to, the extent to which the project improves or expands transportation options, or mitigates the safety risks and detrimental quality of life effects that rail lines can have

on communities. Equity impacts such as direct and indirect displacement of businesses and residents, light, air quality, noise, safety, and accessibility will be considered. For projects located entirely outside of disadvantaged communities, applicants should demonstrate a clear nexus to how the project will reduce the impacts on disadvantaged communities. If impacts (positive and/or negative) to passenger travel are expected to be realized, the nature of such impacts and how they may be realized and mitigated through the proposed project must be described.

Applicants should also demonstrate how meaningful public engagement and discussions around equity impacts shaped the project application. Please include summaries of reference materials as applicable. For projects seeking pre-construction funding, applicants should articulate how the public, including disadvantaged communities and priority populations, have been and/or will be meaningfully engaged in the project development process. Describe any input and feedback received from the community and if the feedback is included in the project scope. Furthermore, applicants will be evaluated according to how the project will provide employment and workforce development and training benefits to the community, particularly to priority populations.

D. Funding match and leveraging federal and state funding and innovative financing

The High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding does not have a minimum match requirement, but a substantial committed federal, state, local, regional or private match is desirable and will be considered in the project's evaluation for the award of funds. In particular, indicating the manner in which the project funding plan achieves minimum match requirements for other programs such as Section 190 or federal requirements must be addressed if such requirements are related to the funding sources proposed for the project.

Project sponsors should also articulate how funding will be used to leverage the maximum amount of federal funding and financing available to California through the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, or other subsequent federal actions, federal infrastructure credit programs and state programs, such as the California Infrastructure Bank. Where applicable, project sponsors are strongly encouraged to articulate how they will achieve the equity outcomes outlined in federal programs where they are seeking funding (e.g., the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) for the INFRA and MEGA programs or the FRA's *Railroad Crossing Elimination Program*).

CalSTA will consider approving High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funds either in advance of the normal program adoption schedule, or as a contingent award during the normal adoption schedule, for projects that are both eligible for High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding and are also planned to be submitted to the federal government for federal discretionary (grant) funding. Advance funds will be considered when the applicant can demonstrate significant benefits as defined in these guidelines and rely on High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funds as a non-federal match in a federal grant application to increase the competitiveness of the project. CalSTA must be given a reasonable amount of time to adequately review the project and analyze potential impacts on the program. The federal grant must be awarded before any advance funds will be allocated to the project.

E. Consistency with existing plans and project readiness

Projects will be evaluated on their consistency with the California State Rail Plan, an MPO Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), a local agency transportation plan (including general plan circulation elements), or where applicable, the California Freight Mobility Plan, as one measure of project readiness. In addition, projects will be evaluated as to the status of overall project readiness, including completion of or plan to complete necessary environmental clearance, permitting actions, design, right of way acquisition and utility relocation. A primary evaluation metric will be the plan for expending all

state funds by June 30, 2027, and the risk mitigation plan if the timeline is exceeded (including explaining how other funds are available to complete the project if expenditures extend beyond that date).

Special consideration will be given to grade crossing improvement or separation projects that have been analyzed, evaluated and listed as priorities in the CPUCs Section 130 or Section 190 programs.

9. Project Selection Process, Programming, Allocations and Project Delivery, Reporting and Administration

Unless High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding is awarded and allocated through CalSTA's Port and Freight Infrastructure Program, the project selection process, programming, allocations and project delivery, reporting and administration of High-Priority Grade Crossing Improvement and Separation set-aside funding will be implemented under provisions that govern the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program..

Attachment 1: CCI Funding Guidelines for Administering Agencies

Investments to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities and Low-Income Communities and Households

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) released the "Funding Guidelines for Agencies Administering California Climate Investments" (Funding Guidelines) on August 30, 2018.

The 2018 Funding Guidelines provide flexibility in implementing a diverse set of investments while maintaining transparency of outcomes and ensuring meaningful community benefits from these investments. These guidelines align with the Legislature's priorities found in [AB 398](#) and Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 appropriations. These guidelines reflect the increasingly important role of California Climate Investments in facilitating the reduction of greenhouse gases while also reducing air pollution, helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, and providing meaningful benefits to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households (also referred to as "[priority populations](#)"), among other statutory requirements.

CARB collaborates with agencies that administer California Climate Investments programs to develop individual targets for each program to drive investments that achieve direct and meaningful benefits to [priority populations](#) and help ensure that [statutory requirements](#) are met, which are described in AB 1550.

Additional information can be found at the following CARB websites:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-funding-guidelines-administering-agencies>

Attachment 2: Quantification Methodology and Co-Benefit Assessment Methodology

CCI Quantification and Reporting Materials

Administering agencies must use the Funding Guidelines with the resources provided by CARB to develop effective programs and demonstrate compliance with program requirements.

Resources include Quantification Methodologies (QMs) and Calculator Tools for estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and co-benefits; Benefit Criteria Tables (BCTs) for determining benefits to priority populations; and Reporting Templates for reporting outcomes.

CARB staff developed the [TIRCP QM](#) and associated [Calculator Tool](#) to provide guidance for estimating the GHG emission reductions and selected co-benefits for each proposed project type. The calculator tool automates methods described in the QM document, outlines documentation requirements, and provides a link to a step-by-step user guide with project examples. Projects will report the total project GHG emission reductions and co-benefit estimated using the TIRCP Calculator tool as well as the total project GHG emission reductions per dollar of GGRF funds.

Using many of the same inputs required to estimate GHG emission reductions, the TIRCP Calculator Tool will estimate the following co-benefits and key variables from TIRCP projects

- ROG emission reductions (lbs),
- NOx emission reductions (lbs),
- PM2.5 emission reductions (lbs),
- Diesel PM emission reductions (lbs),
- Passenger VMT reductions (miles),
- Fossil fuel use reductions (gallons),
- Fossil fuel energy use reductions (kWh),
- Passenger travel cost savings (\$), and
- Energy and fuel cost savings (\$).

Additional co-benefits for which CARB assessment methodologies were not incorporated into the TIRCP Calculator Tool may also be applicable to the project. Applicants should consult the TIRCP guidelines, solicitation materials, and agreements to ensure they are meeting TIRCP requirements. All CARB co-benefit assessment methodologies are available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cqi-methodologies>

Reporting templates are developed specifically for each program within California Climate Investments. These templates are used by TIRCP staff to report on outcomes from all projects funded by TIRCP.

Note: Quantification methods have been developed specifically for each GGRF programs and are not intended for use in other programs.

Additional information can be found at the following CARB website:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cqi-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials>

Co-benefit Assessment Methodology

California Climate Investments support the State's climate change goals and provide many additional benefits to individuals, households, businesses, and communities. These "co-benefits" include social, economic, and environmental benefits. CARB provides guidance on quantification methods and reporting to administering agencies. CARB contracted with the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) to help research and develop methods for evaluating project co-benefits. Guidance on using the co-benefit assessment methodologies is contained in [CARB's Funding Guidelines](#).

The co-benefits were prioritized based on administering agency input and broad applicability to California Climate Investments programs. UC Berkeley first reviewed the scientific data to determine if methods could be developed and summarized the findings in literature reviews. Next, UC Berkeley and CARB developed Co-benefit Assessment Methodologies where feasible. CARB solicited public comment on draft versions in Spring 2018 prior to posting final Co-benefit Assessment Methodologies. CARB may review and update assessment methodologies periodically based on new or evolving project types; new legislation; available resources; new scientific developments or tools, or modifications in the analytical tools or approaches upon which the methodologies were based; or input from administering agencies or the public.

The California Air Resources Board is updating the Co-benefit assessment methodology. See the following website for the final methodology.

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/ci-methodologies>

Attachment 3: Benefit Criteria Tables

CCI Benefit Criteria Tables

TIRCP uses the Sustainable Transportation [Benefit Criteria Table](#) developed by CARB to ensure that programs meet the minimum levels of investments to projects that benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, collectively referred to as “priority populations”.

All projects counting toward the statutory investment minimums must be located within an identified community and benefit individuals living within that community, or directly benefit residents of low-income households anywhere in the State. Administering agencies must determine if a project meets the criteria for providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations using the following evaluation approach:

- Step 1:** Identify the Priority Population(s). Be located within a census tract identified as a disadvantaged community or low-income community, or directly benefit residents of a low-income household.
- Step 2:** Address a Need. Meaningfully address an important community or household need for the disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household.
- Step 3:** Provide a Benefit. Using the evaluation criteria, identify at least one direct, meaningful, and assured benefit that the project provides to priority populations. The benefit provided must directly address the identified need.

Only investments that meet these criteria will be counted toward achieving the statutory investment minimums identified for priority populations. Administering agencies can fund projects that otherwise provide meaningful benefits, but do not meet these criteria; however, those projects will not be counted toward investment minimums.

**Attachment 4: California Transportation Commission – Transit and Intercity Rail
Capital Program Allocation Policy Resolution G-20-61**

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
TRANSIT AND INTERCITY RAIL CAPITAL PROGRAM ALLOCATION POLICY Resolution G-20-61**

In accordance with Public Resources Code 75220(C), the California Transportation Commission (Commission) shall allocate funding to applicants pursuant to the program of projects approved by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. The Commission recognizes that the approved program of projects is expressed in more detail with regards to project component, phase and fiscal year of implementation in the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Allocation Plan (which is regularly updated as approved projects progress through development). These two documents are collectively referred to here as the “Program.” Allocations made by the Commission follow the timely use of funds provisions that are consistent across all funding programs under the Commission’s purview.

To provide consistency in the programming of state transportation funds, the total award to each project component should be listed in the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program in the fiscal year(s) in which the project component will be implemented. If a project is expected to require multiple contracts for any component, each contract should be programmed separately. All project allocation requests that come before the Commission must be consistent with the Program.

The following describes how the Commission intends to manage Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program allocations:

1. Allocations will be made to the full programmed amount for each project component. If a project will require multiple construction contracts, allocations will be made to the full programmed amount for each contract. The Commission will consider the allocation of funds for a project when it receives an allocation request with a recommendation from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The recommendation should include a determination of project readiness, the availability of appropriated Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding, and the availability of all other committed funding. Funds allocated for project development or right-of-way costs must be expended by the end of the fiscal year of allocation plus two additional fiscal years, unless a longer time-frame is requested at the time of allocation or the Commission approves a time extension subsequent to the allocation. Allocations for award are valid for six months from the date of allocation unless otherwise indicated at the time of allocation or the Commission approves a time extension subsequent to the allocation. For funds allocated for construction, including rolling stock procurement, the implementing agency has up to 36 months after the award of a contract, to complete (accept) the contract unless a longer time-frame is requested at the time of allocation or the Commission approves a time extension subsequent to the allocation. The implementing agency must submit a final invoice to Caltrans no later than 180 days after contract acceptance.
2. The Commission will approve the allocation if the funds are available and the allocation is necessary to implement the project or project component included in CalSTA’s approved 5-Year Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. For projects that are ready to advertise, the Commission expects Caltrans to certify that a project’s plans, specifications and estimates are complete, environmental and right-of-way clearances are secured, and all necessary permits and agreements (including railroad construction and maintenance) are executed. For the procurement of rolling stock, the Commission may consider the

exercising of an option or the certification of funds for contract elements as meeting the milestone for contract award provided that the agency is under no contractual obligation to pay any funds or penalty if the option is not exercised or the funds not certified. Construction allocations for projects or project components not ready for advertisement will not be placed on the Commission's agenda for allocation approval. In compliance with Section 21150 of the Public Resources Code, the Commission will not allocate funds for design, right-of-way, or construction prior to documentation of environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act. As a matter of policy, the Commission will not allocate funds for design, right-of-way, or construction of a federally funded project prior to documentation of environmental clearance under the National Environmental Policy Act. The implementing agency must not award the contract for a project or project component until the Commission has allocated the funds for the project. Any changes to the scope of a project or project component after the allocation of funds to the project or project component must be approved in advance by the Commission.

3. CalSTA may change the timeline for the allocation of a project component based on changes in project delivery needs. These changes will be communicated in updates to the Program. The Commission may grant the extension of a deadline for award of a contract, for expenditures for project development or right-of-way, for project completion, and for project reimbursement. The Commission may grant a deadline extension if it finds that an unforeseen and extraordinary circumstance beyond the control of the agency has occurred that justifies the extension. The extension will not exceed the period of delay directly attributable to the extraordinary circumstance, and in no event will be longer than 20 months. All requests for project delivery deadline time extensions shall follow the Caltrans time extension process in order to be included in the Commission's agenda. The extension request should describe the specific circumstance that justifies the extension and identify the delay directly attributable to that circumstance. Caltrans will review all time extension requests and make a recommendation to the Commission for approval.
4. Caltrans is responsible for managing the cash flow needed to match the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program's resources to projects or project components that have received Commission allocations, in accordance with the terms of CalSTA delegated authority and approval.
5. After allocation, Caltrans is responsible for managing project delivery and reimbursements in cooperation with the implementing agencies, in accordance with the terms of CalSTA delegated authority and approval.