



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

**Regional Transportation Planning Agency
Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**

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AGENDA ITEM 7b

TAC Meeting

August 7, 2025

DATE: July 31, 2025
TO: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
FROM: Brendan Byrd, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Draft 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund
Estimate and Guidelines**

STAFF REPORT

Contents:

- Staff Summary
- 2026 Draft STIP and Interregional Share Estimates
- 2026 Draft RTIP Project Candidate Form

Discussion Item:

1. Introduce the item;
2. Allow staff to present the item;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Discuss and provide direction to staff.

Staff Summary:

The STIP is a biennial five-year plan adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for future allocations of state transportation funds for road and transit improvements. Each new STIP adds two new years to the prior programming commitments. The STIP is composed of two sub elements: the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP). Each Regional Transportation Planning Agency, including HCAOG, is required to submit an RTIP to the CTC by December 15 of every odd numbered year for inclusion in the STIP.

The following schedule lists the major milestones for development and adoption of the 2026 STIP:

CTC adopts Fund Estimate & Guidelines	August 14-15, 2025
Caltrans identifies State highway needs	September 15, 2025
Caltrans submits draft ITIP	October 15, 2025
CTC ITIP hearing, North	October 30 2025
Regions submit RTIPs	December 15, 2025
Caltrans submits final ITIP	December 15, 2026
CTC STIP hearing, North	January 28, 2026
CTC publishes staff recommendations	February 27, 2026
CTC adopts STIP	March 19-20, 2026

The 2024 STIP fund estimate indicates that Humboldt’s draft estimate for the Total Target is \$3,054,000 for program capacity available through 2030-2031. This accounts for the regional overprogramming that HCAOG performed during the 2024 STIP cycle of \$1,258,000, which was done to keep as many key regional projects programmed and progressing at that time as directed by the TAC and approved by the Board. Additionally, \$215,000 is the limit HCAOG can program for Planning, Programming and Monitoring (PPM) funds for the last three years of the STIP (2028-2029, 2029-30, and 2030-31). This leaves \$8,871,000 available for target programming.

Available Funds for Projects	
Total 2026 RIP Target (including previous overprogramming)	\$3,054,000
Planning, Programming, and Monitoring	(215,000)
Remaining Funds Available for Projects:	\$2,839,000

The CTC also provides every region a maximum target for new programming capacity through the end of the county share period in 2031-2032. For Humboldt this estimate is **\$5,814,000**. This represents a maximum amount that the CTC may program. The maximum is not guaranteed to be programmed. The CTC can fund between the target and maximum shares when other regions do not program to their target. Any funds programmed above the target come out of future shares.

It is important to note that these funds are estimates and may change before the final approval at the August CTC meeting, which is due to take place on August 14th and 15th.

Changes to STIP Guidelines:

One notable change has been included in the draft 2026 STIP guidelines that will be taken to the CTC later this month. As a result of comments received during the STIP guidelines workshops, the current draft guidelines include language and a process for allowing ATP and ‘federal discretionary grant funds’ as eligible sources of uncommitted funds for a STIP funding request. As the TAC may recall, requests for STIP funding need to be done in a manner that fully funds a project phase, and previous STIP cycles would only allow showing ‘uncommitted funds’ in a budget if they were from the broader SB-1 competitive program. With these changes the CTC hopes to allow local agencies to further leverage outside funds with STIP dollars. The CTC has yet to release the final draft 2026 STIP guidelines that will be taken to the August Board meeting,

and therefore they are not included in this packet at the time of publishing. Staff will circulate to the TAC once they are published and made available.

Additionally, a draft project candidate form is attached to this staff report. The only changes from the prior cycle are made in red and reflect the changes to the STIP Guidelines. Additional changes can be considered should the TAC have any recommendations.

Staff anticipate that at the September TAC meeting the formal project solicitation process will be presented for the STIP funding approved at the August CTC meeting. Staff welcome any comments or feedback from the TAC on the draft estimate, the project candidate form, or the upcoming call for projects.