

# THE COORDINATOR

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## 2006 Funding Update

The SLOCOG Board met on December 7<sup>th</sup> to review the 2006 transportation funding requests submitted to SLOCOG from its member agencies and Caltrans. SLOCOG will program between \$20M to \$50M depending on final state allocations. Short term funding requests total \$76M. "Notable" projects in the queue seeking funding for increased project costs due to the escalation of construction materials include:

- State Route 41/US 101 Interchange Reconstruction in Atascadero
- US 101 Operational Improvements in the South County
- Widening of Orcutt Road in San Luis Obispo
- Harborwalk in Morro Bay

A summary of the funding requests can be grouped in the following categories:

- State Highways Improvements (55% of total funding requested)
- Major Arterials/Interchange Projects (28% of total funding requested)
- Enhancements (13% of total funding requested)
- Transit/rail (3% of total funding requested)
- Studies (1% of total funding requested)

A full listing of all project funding requests can be downloaded from SLOCOG's website at [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org)

Next steps include a transportation-programming workshop in December with SLOCOG's technical advisory committee to review project rankings and priorities. Advisory committees will provide additional input into the process in January prior to the SLOCOG Board taking final action February 8, 2006 on this five-year capital improvement program.

Contact Richard Murphy at 781-5754 should you have questions regarding this funding program.



## Unmet Transit Needs Hearing Scheduled

Per the Transportation Development Act (TDA) guidelines, each year SLOCOG solicits requests from the public on unmet transit needs. The unmet transit needs public hearing for the coming cycle will be held at the SLOCOG Board meeting on February 8, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. in the SLO County Board of Supervisors' Chambers in San Luis Obispo.

SLOCOG is now accepting public comments by mail, telephone, fax, and e-mail. Send written comments to 1150 Osos St., Suite 202, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Call Philip Chu at 805-781-4223. Fax requests to 805-781-5703; e-mail requests to [Unmet\\_needs@slocog.org](mailto:Unmet_needs@slocog.org), or visit our website at [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org).

At the December 7, 2005 meeting the SLOCOG Board adopted the criteria to be used for evaluating the requests. The first tier review uses the four criteria given below:

- The request fills a gap in transit service
- There is sufficient community support (at least 15 requests for general public service and 10 requests for disabled service);
- The request is a current rather than a future need; and
- The request is for service expansion instead of minor service changes

If all of the above 4 criteria are met, a second tier review assesses the



"reasonableness to meet". The second tier criteria include: a) cost effectiveness (i.e. system-wide farebox ratio); b) funding by a served

entity; c) service productivity (i.e. riders per hours) based on comparable services; and d) request fundable with existing TDA funds, without reducing other existing transit services.





# COMMUNITY 2050: *Planning Tomorrow's Growth Today*

November 19<sup>th</sup> was the last of four subregional workshops which completed the Fall 2005 *Phase II* component of the Community 2050 effort. The subregional workshops (North County, South County, Central County, and North Coast) were focused on initiating discussions regarding key issues and opportunities defined as important during the *Phase I* visioning workshops conducted last spring. The information will be integrated into the work to further define the efforts that will be undertaken starting after the first of the year. The Board has requested funding assistance to continue the *Community 2050* process through the *California Regional Blueprint Planning Program* targeting comprehensive scenario planning.

The upcoming phase, aimed at further delineating the key issues within each subregion, is subtitled *Defining Direction and Solutions* to emphasize the focus on practical applications toward results within each subregion. A countywide discussion of the key issues addressed at the Fall 2005 series is planned followed by at least 2 workshops in each area. Long Range Socio-Economic Projections are being developed to assist in basic urban growth modeling for analysis of potential areas of impact.

The focus of the *Community 2050* Program is providing a forum and framework for the coordination of local planning efforts with regional and state goals and objectives to integrate transportation, housing, land use, environmental resources, other infrastructure, and services. A key objective is to be able to have a sufficient housing supply developed to accommodate natural population increases and workforce needs for the full spectrum of the population, and provide consumers more housing and transportation choices. The following bullet points summarize the results of the visioning exercises and the goals of the consensus documents that are the targeted outputs of this process.

- Optimize infill/refill; and identify priority areas for transit oriented development.
- Minimize impacts on productive farmland and valuable habitat.
- Provide a foundation for improved mobility, reduced single-occupant vehicle trips (including encouraging more walking and bicycling) and improved air quality.
- Reduce sprawl and promote more efficient land use in new edge development.
- Promote resource use efficiency (energy, water and materials conservation).
- Work with member agencies to identify specific geographic areas within the region that are priorities for increasing the amount and rate of needed housing development and jobs.



The subregional basis of the program is particularly designed to focus on the partnership opportunities that exist within the distinct housing markets, economic centers, and environmental subregions of the County. The upcoming phase of the *Community 2050* program will evaluate interrelationships between existing partnerships such as those addressing:

- *Economic Development* – The Economic Vitality Corporation (EVC) and County Economic Advisory Committee are being included in these efforts in working jointly with this process toward a *Countywide Economic Plan* as envisioned in 1993. This is being “driven” by the high cost of housing in the region and the need to work more effectively to address housing issues.
- *Housing* – The primary issue identified in the fall workshops has been housing. The Homebuilders Association, Housing Trust Fund, and Housing Authority have been participating in the program and will be assisting with presenting key housing issues and potential solutions to some of the vexing issues that underlie this problem area.
- *Transportation Infrastructure* – As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency SLOCOG will review the Regional Transportation Plan and will review and update funding priorities and performance measures as a part of the ongoing program.
- *Environmental Planning* - Community separators, protecting agriculture sensitive habitat and open space have been identified as major concerns – a number of base resources and several studies and programs are underway or in place. This program will map these areas and include them in the evaluation and planning process.



## San Luis Obispo North Coast Scenic Byway

Implementation of the Scenic Byway Corridor Enhancement Plan continues! The SLOCOG Board approved submittal of 3 projects to FHWA's National Scenic Byways Program for 2006 grant funding. The three projects would support byway goals of improving non-motorized transportation access, interpretation, and community definition. The projects included:



- Morro Bay State Park Class I Bike Path (Project Development)
- Byway Interpretation and Signage
- Byway Community Gateways

SLOCOG is expecting an announcement soon on the success of the 2005 applications to the program soon. The byway's program is one of many funding sources that SLOCOG plans to pursue in implementing projects that support the goals identified in the Corridor Enhancement Plan (CEP).

The CEP is currently being updated to improve its effectiveness in guiding its implementation. Improvements will include greater data on planned improvements, funding strategies, partnerships, priorities, and mapping. For more information contact Darren Brown at 781-5764



## SLOCOG Board Hears Report on Caltrans SHOPP

At its December meeting the SLOCOG Board was given a presentation by staff on Caltrans draft proposed 2006 State Highway Operations and Protection Plan (SHOPP). The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is required to adopt the plan in April 2006. It is a four-year program of projects proposed for allocation in Fiscal Years (FY) 2006/07 through FY 2009/10 with total statewide spending set at \$6.8 billion. The amount of funding proposed in this cycle in the San Luis Obispo Region is \$102 million, which is about 38% of a total of \$270 million for the five county area of District 5. Projects are approved for inclusion in the plan on a statewide competitive basis among the districts with safety improvements having the highest priority, followed by pavement & facility rehabilitation, and operational projects. New 2006 SHOPP projects are subject to review by Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA's). Funding required for the SHOPP has been increased substantially over the past few years reflecting the needs of an aging transportation system and the state priority on safety, maintenance and preservation. The program was \$3.6b in 2000, \$5.5b in 2004, and has now grown to \$6.8b in 2006 (an 88% increase over six years). All state and federal fuel taxes are currently allocated to the SHOPP

## 2005 Transportation Performance Indicators Report Presented

The annual Transportation Performance Indicators Report (TPIR) was presented to the SLOCOG Board at its December meeting. The report is the second update following the original which was accepted by the SLOCOG Board on June 4, 2003. The TPIR was developed in response to State legislation that required a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) to monitor the performance of the region's transportation system and address the findings in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Among the fourteen indicators tracked for the report, particularly notable improvement was seen in public transit service which showed that bus and rail transit ridership is up, as is ridership on airlines serving the area. The report also noted that during three of the past four years vehicle occupancy been fairly steady at about 1.25 Persons per Vehicle (PPV) for North County commuters and 1.3 PPV for South County commuters.

For more information on the report or to request a copy please call Mike Harmon at 781-5724 or Philip Chu at 781-4223.



There are 14 projects in the 2006 SHOPP proposed for implementation in San Luis Obispo County. Seven of these were carried over from the 2004 SHOPP. The projects are designed to address three overall programming priorities, as follows:

- **Roadway Preservation.** Seven rehabilitation and system upgrade projects (four carried over from 2004) are recommended. The most costly is \$27.8 million for rehabilitation of ten miles of Route 101 from the Cuesta Grade overhead to north of Traffic Way in Atascadero. The second most costly project is \$22 million for rehabilitation of eight miles of US101 from the Santa Fe Bridge to north of Reservoir Canyon Road (this cost was escalated from \$16M in 2004). A \$6.6m upgrade is also proposed at the Highway 46 rest stop in Shandon.
- **Collision Reduction.** Three projects are recommended (one carried over from 2004). These projects continue the efforts add and upgrade guard rails and crash cushions throughout the county. A new curve correction project is also included on Highway 166 near New Cuyama, consistent with the 166 Task Force recommendations.
- **Mobility category.** Two projects are recommended, both consistent with our Regional Transportation Plan:
  - Install Transportation Management System Elements (CCTV cameras and vehicle detectors on Rt 101 from Arroyo Grande to SLO City, \$5.04m.
  - Add a NB auxiliary lane on US 101 from Prado Road to Madonna Road, \$3.47m.

For more information contact Mike Harmon at 781-5724



## ***Down the Road...***

The next scheduled meeting of the SLOCOG Board will be held in the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors' Chambers Wednesday, February 8, 2006. The Board meetings are broadcast live and replayed on Channel 21 (Charter communications Cable TV)

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

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

***President – Shirley Bianchi, District 2 Supervisor***  
***Vice President – Tony Ferrara, Mayor Arroyo Grande***

*Paso Robles – Frank Mecham, Mayor*  
*Atascadero – Wendy Scalise Mayor*  
*Grover Beach – John Shoals, Mayor*  
*Morro Bay – Betty Winholtz, Council member*  
*Pismo Beach – Mary Ann Reiss, Mayor*  
*Ex-Officio, Gregg Albright –Director, Caltrans District 5*

*San Luis Obispo – Dave Romero, Mayor*  
*District 1 Supervisor – Harry Ovitt*  
*District 3 Supervisor – Jerry Lenthall*  
*District 4 Supervisor – Katcho Achadjian*  
*District 5 Supervisor – James Patterson*  
*Executive Director – Ronald De Carli*



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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*1150 Osos St, Ste 202*  
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