



**MEDIA ALERT**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**SLOCOG Programs \$28.9M in Transportation Funding**

*SLOCOG Board approves the programming of Federal and State Transit and Highway Funds in a continuing effort to connect communities in the San Luis Obispo region*

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. – December 6, 2013** – Last week the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) board of directors approved a total of \$28.9M of Federal and State transportation funds for use in the San Luis Obispo County region. The programming cycle, which occurs annually for transit funds and every other year for highway funds, was the culmination of the ongoing collaboration between SLOCOG and its member jurisdictions to plan and prioritize federal and state transportation funds in our region.

“The SLOCOG board appreciates the complexity of programming all these different fund sources,” said Frank Mecham, 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor and SLOCOG Board Chairman. “As a board we are proud of how our region works together in a positive and congenial manner to prioritize projects that benefit all our constituencies.”

A breakdown of the various funding sources and amounts are as follows:

Transit Programming - \$4.3M

- Twenty one projects were approved for a total of \$4.3M in Federal Transit Funds
- This included \$3.2M for ongoing operations and maintenance and \$1.1M for 12 new transit vehicles

State Funding (primarily for highways) - \$2.5M

- SLOCOG committed \$2.5M in state highway funds to address escalations of three existing highway projects that were underfunded (LOVR interchange, Brisco Rd. interchange improvement and Price Canyon Rd. widening)
- The \$2.5M is in addition to prior SLOCOG funding on these three projects in the amount of \$28.8M
- In addition to SLOCOG funding on these projects, local jurisdictions have also contributed \$17.5M

Federal Funding (primarily for routes of regional significance) - \$24.6M

- With \$15.8M available to program, SLOCOG programmed \$13.3M and held back \$5M for future projects that will arise from the current SLOCOG-led US 101 Mobility Master Plan
- Thirty seven projects were approved for a total of \$13.3M in federal funds and \$11.3 in matching funds from member agencies
- A total of 55 projects totaling \$45M was originally requested by member agencies

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“In an age of declining funds SLOCOG staff worked diligently to identify priority projects,” said Ron DeCarli, Executive Director of SLOCOG. “The local option sales tax funds that many of our member agencies now have access to really allowed us to move forward on key projects. In the past, federal and state funds would cover the majority of these projects. Today, the local jurisdictions are covering up to 50% of the cost.”

Following is a highlight of key projects programmed:

#### Street and Road Projects

- In Paso Robles, the Widening of Union Rd, including Class II bike lanes
- In Grover Beach, the reconstruction of Oak Park Boulevard from Grand Ave to US 101 including Class II Bike Lanes
- Assessment of interchange improvements and alternatives at Main St. in Templeton, Fair Oaks Ave in Arroyo Grande, Highway 41/1 in Morro Bay

#### Bike and Pedestrian Projects

- Design funds for regional bike projects (Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector and the Atascadero to Templeton Connector)
- Match funds to assist the City of San Luis Obispo to pursue a state competitive grant for the continued construction of the Railroad Safety Trail
- Safety channelization improvements at various locations: In San Luis Obispo along South Higuera at the Octogan Ban, in South Atascadero along El Camino Real at Santa Clara Rd

#### Public Transportation

- The purchase of two 57 passenger “over the road” coaches for express bus services for the north county (Route 9) and south county (Route 10)
- Full funding of the Grover Beach Train Station Expansion project; including the expansion of parking and to provide regional transit connection services

To see the full staff reports on these programming decisions, please visit [www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org).

#### **About SLOCOG**

The San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) is an association of local governments in the San Luis Obispo County Region. Its members include all 7 cities (Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo) as well as unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. The central purpose of SLOCOG is to examine common regional problems and suggest solutions. SLOCOG provides transportation planning and funding for the region, and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the region’s long-range transportation plan, SLOCOG plans and provides funding for public transit services, highway and roadway improvements, and other alternative methods of transportation.

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