

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transportation programming is the process of prioritizing transportation-related projects for funding and delivery. The California Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) is a programming document prepared by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the state's metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and the regional transportation planning agencies (RTPAs). Federal law requires that the FSTIP be updated at least once every four years, covers a programming period of four years, must be fiscally constrained, and contains a priority list of projects grouped by year. California updates its FSTIP every two years.

The current federal surface transportation act, known as "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21), restructured the core federal transportation programs. While the provisions governing FSTIP development remain the same, some transportation programs have been consolidated to reduce the number of funding programs.

The 2015 FSTIP is a four-year (federal fiscal years 2014/15 to 2017/18) statewide multimodal program of transportation projects proposed for federal funding under Titles 23 and 49 of the United States Code. This includes all projects that are deemed regionally significant, regardless of the funding source. It contains a list of rural non-MPO projects and references to the MPOs' Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) documents that are posted on each MPO's website.

Local agencies, such as cities, counties, and transit agencies, work through their MPOs or RTPAs, or both, to include projects into their region's FTIP. The FSTIP reflects the state's vision and goals laid out in the local and regional long-range transportation plans. Projects in areas that do not meet air quality standards, referred to as nonattainment areas, and projects in areas that recently reached attainment, maintenance areas, must be in line with the State Implementation Plan for air quality.

Public involvement is integral to the process of prioritizing projects for funding and delivery. Each MPO has a public participation plan that lays out the process for involving the public when developing and revising the FTIP. In addition, the FSTIP is subject to continual reviews and revisions to make sure projects are delivered on time. Caltrans' public participation process allows the public and interested parties to be involved in developing and amending the FSTIP. This process allows the public to understand and comment on the overall programming of the state's transportation projects.

Caltrans certifies that the statewide transportation planning process addresses the major issues facing the state and its nonurbanized areas and is carried out according to all applicable federal requirements. (Exhibit III, Statewide Planning Certification.)