



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2012

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Public Input Meeting for OBAG Projects and Priorities for Solano County

SUISUN CITY, CA – The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is seeking input from the public on how to allocate \$7.6 million in federal transportation funds over the next 4 years.

A special public input meeting of the STA Board will be held on **Wednesday, September 12, at 3:00 pm** in the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield.

The transportation funds are from the federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program, and will be allocated by STA as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) program. "CMAQ funds can be used for many projects and programs that reduce the number of vehicles on the road or improve air quality. Examples of eligible CMAQ projects are bus stations, bike lanes and rideshare programs, but there are many other possibilities" said STA Planning Director Robert Macaulay.

At the public input meeting on Wednesday, September 12, various advisory committees and members of the general public will have the opportunity to present their priorities regarding what transportation projects or programs that can be funded with CMAQ dollars are important to them.

Background on OBAG

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the long-range transportation plan for the 9-county Bay Area. It is prepared every 4 years by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The RTP sets out a 25-year vision for the region's transportation system, establishes goals and milestones for achieving that vision, and lists projects that are designed to help meet those goals.

Senate Bill (SB) 375 was legislation enacted with the intent to help implement the state's goals for reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks, and coordinate regional land use and transportation planning. SB 375 requires the development of Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) that act as the land use element of the RTP. The SCS and RTP must result in projected reductions of GHG emissions to levels set by the state, and accommodate all of the projected growth in housing for the time period of the RTP/SCS. The Bay Area SCS is being developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and MTC, with input from other regional agencies.

In late December 2011, MTC released guidelines for the OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) program. OBAG is a new program developed by MTC and ABAG for the allocation of the region's federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and CMAQ funds. The OBAG proposal will combine funds for local streets and roads maintenance, Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC), regional bicycle network and Congestion Management Agency (CMA) Planning activities.

On July 12, the STA Board issued a Call for Projects for CMAQ-eligible projects and programs. A total of \$7.6 million in CMAQ funds is currently available for Solano County.

For more information, contact Robert Macaulay, STA Director of Planning at 707-399-3204, rmacaulay@sta-snci.com, or go to the STA's website: <http://www.sta.ca.gov>.

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