



# Fiscal Year 2026-2027 State Transit Assistance County Block Grant

C/CAG Congestion Management and Environmental Quality Committee  
April 27, 2026



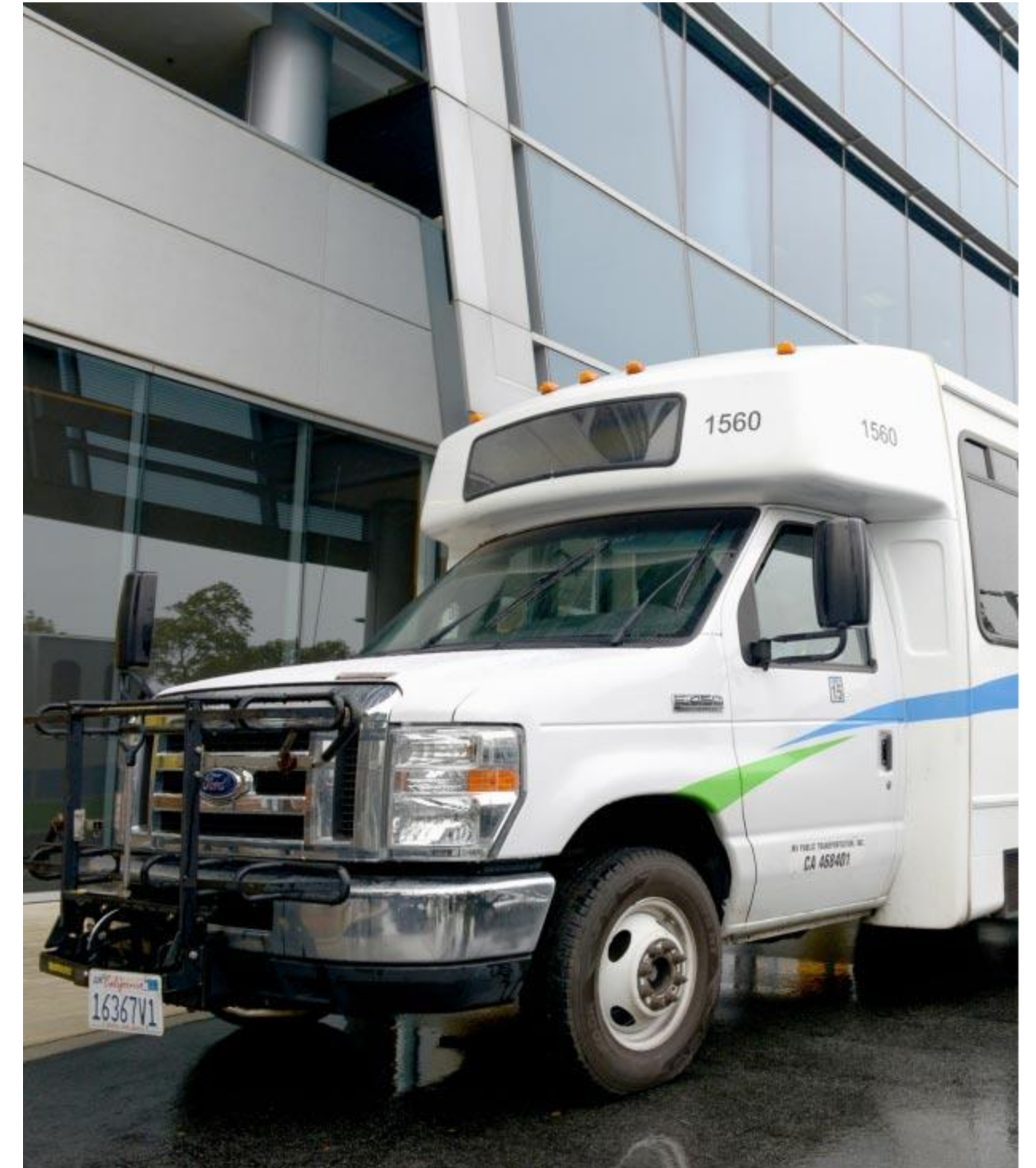
# State Transit Assistance (STA) Program Overview

- STA Program funds are derived from a sales tax on diesel fuel. The funding for the program is split between a Revenue Based Program and Population-Based Program
- Previously, MTC distributed funding via 1) Bay Area Northern County small transit operators, 2) regional Paratransit, 3) the regional Lifeline Transportation Program, and 4) MTC regional coordination programs.
- New Block Grant Program allows counties to determine how to invest in paratransit services and lifeline transportation needs.
- Pursuant to C/CAG Board approval



# C/CAG Lifeline Transportation Program

- Program aimed to support transit projects that improve mobility for low-income residents
- Projects that are funded have been identified in community-based transportation planning (CBTP) process and other local planning efforts for disadvantaged communities.
- Project examples include: shuttle service, transit stop improvements, purchase of transit passes, New, continued or expanded fixed-route transit service, etc.



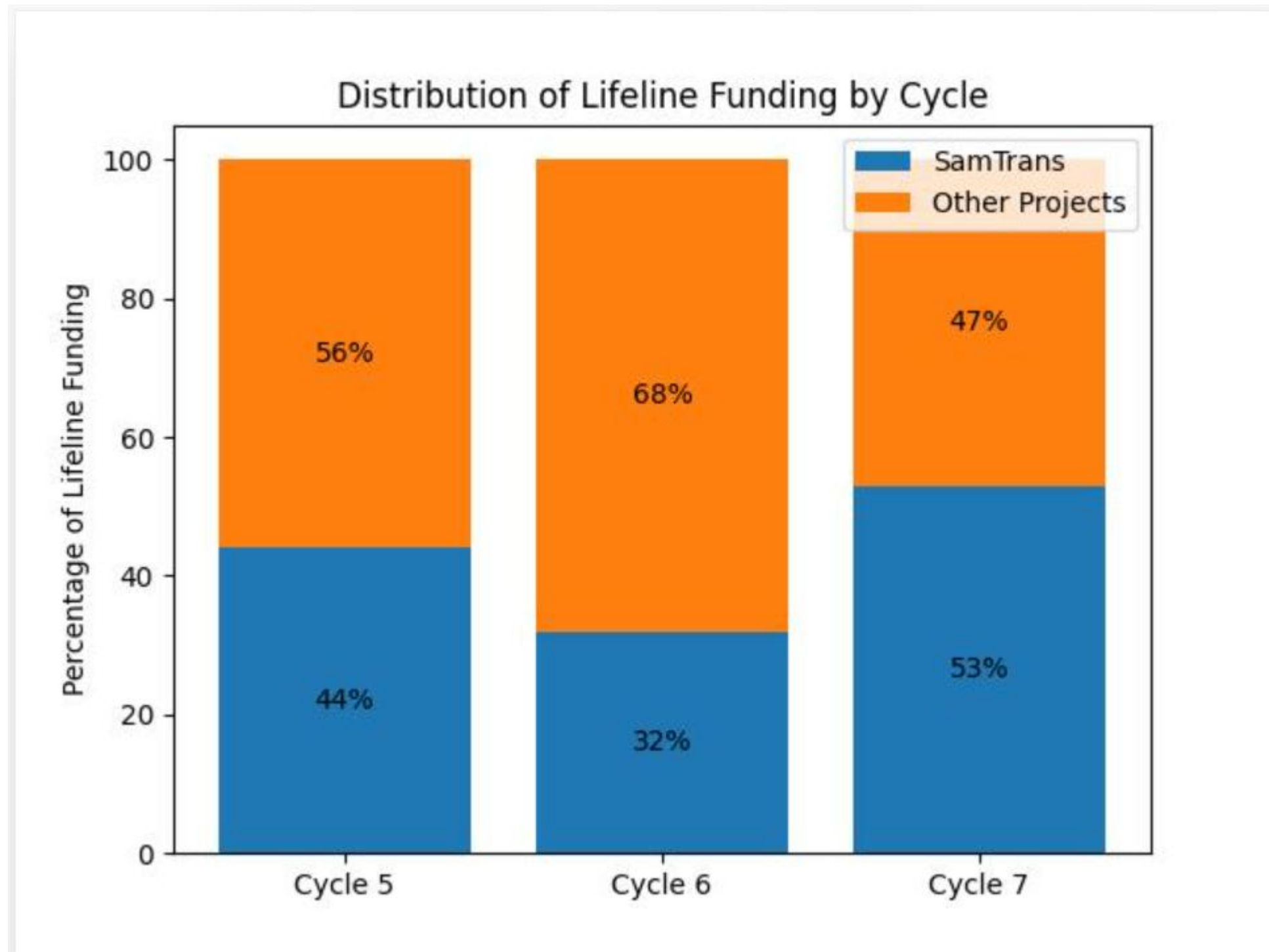
# C/CAG STA County Block Grant Framework

- **Staff Recommendation:** Continue the existing 37% / 63% split between Paratransit and Lifeline
  - Current STA fund estimate for FY 2026-27 is \$2,466,306
    - 37% to SamTrans Paratransit Program (FY 26/27 \$912,533.22)
    - 63% to Lifeline Transportation Program (FY 26/27 \$1,553,772 )
- **Key Considerations:**
  - Maintains balance between mandated services and equity-focused investments
  - Supports countywide mobility needs
  - Provides stability and predictability across funding cycles

# STA Fund Distribution By Cycle

SamTrans  
(Paratransit)

37%(Formulaic)



63% CFP

# Other Funded Lifeline Projects

Lifeline Cycle 5	
Daly City	Daly City Bayshore Shuttle
San Mateo County Human Services Agency	San Mateo County Transportation Assistance for Low-Income Residents
City of Menlo Park	Menlo Park Crosstown Shuttle
Lifeline Cycle 6	
Menlo Park	Menlo Park Shuttle Program
South San Francisco	Free South City Shuttle Outreach Enhancements Project
San Mateo (City)	Get Around! Senior Transportation Program
Daly City	Daly City Bayshore Shuttle
Lifeline Cycle 7	
San Mateo County	North Fair Oaks Community Connections Project
East Palo Alto	East Bayshore Road Pedestrian and Cyclist Improvements
Meno Park	Menlo Park M1-Crosstown Shuttle
Daly City	Daly City Bayshore Shuttle
City of South San Francisco	Free South City Shuttle Public Outreach Project (previously named the “Free South City Shuttle Outreach Enhancements Project”)
Meno Park	Menlo Park Shoppers' Shuttle
City of San Mateo City Parks & Rec	Get Around! Senior Transportation Program

# Proposed Lifeline Cycle 8 Call For Projects

- Approx. \$1,553,772 in available funding (may change depending on actual STA revenue generated)
- Anticipate issuing Call for Projects in the fall
- Potential streamlined renewal process for recurring SamTrans services: reduced application burden through proposed bi-annual certification process (SamCoast and Route 117)
- Staff to present guidelines for Lifeline Cycle 8 CFP in late summer.



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## TAC Discussion Summary – April 16, 2026

- SamTrans expressed opposition to the staff recommendation; however, a specific alternative split was not proposed.
- Concerns raised by SamTrans: changed mobility patterns since 2018, paratransit serves countywide needs, SamTrans riders are predominantly lower-income, significant bus stop capital needs, and rising service costs.
- SamTrans has historically received ~60%+ of total STA funds (formulaic + discretionary combined) across Cycles 5–7.
- TAC Members discussed SB 63 as relevant context: potential \$50M/year in new SamTrans revenue; expenditure plan expected for adoption in June 2026.
- **TAC Action:** Approved the 37%/63% split and recommended this item return for further discussion with SamTrans representation.

## Requested Action

Review and recommend approval of the C/CAG distribution policy for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 State Transit Assistance (STA) Population-Based funds, including maintaining and continuing 37% and 63% split between paratransit services and the Lifeline Transportation Program.



# Questions?

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