

Lifeline Transportation Program + CARE-PBI (FY26-27-FY28-29)

C/CAG Congestion Management Program Technical Advisory Committee

November 19, 2026

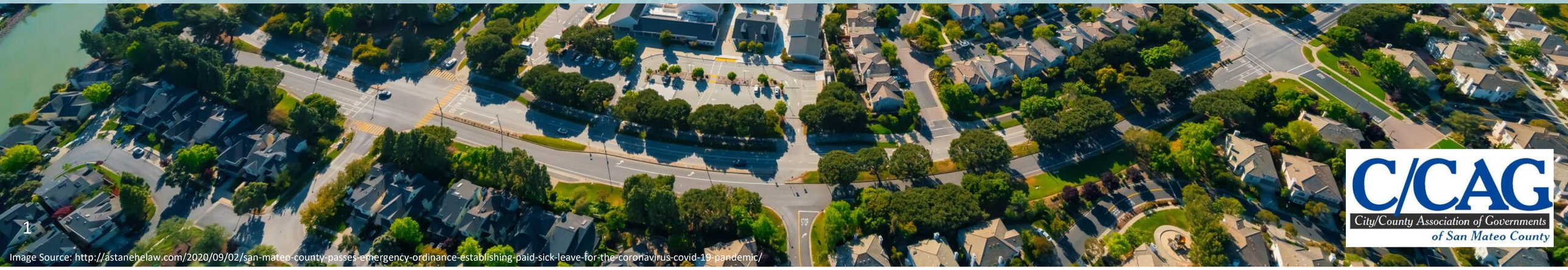


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C/CAG Lifeline Transportation Program

Lifeline Transportation Program

Program aimed to support transit projects that improve mobility for low-income residents

- Projects identified in community-based transportation planning (CBTP) process and other local planning efforts for disadvantaged communities.
- Eligible projects: shuttle service, transit stop improvements, purchase of transit passes, capital projects, new, continued or expanded fixed-route transit service, etc.



Funding

- C/CAG Board approved the 63% Lifeline, 37% Paratransit split for FY 26-27 at May 2026 Board meeting
- Lifeline Cycle 8: Planning a three year funding cycle. **$4.9 million currently available covers two years.**

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Two pathways for Cycle 8 Lifeline Funds

Pilot streamlined renewal

- Lifeline STA only
- Established, previously funded SamTrans operating services with consistent scope, continued service to eligible communities and satisfactory performance (SamCoast & Route 117)
- Recertification and C/CAG approval required; no guaranteed award.

Competitive call

- Lifeline operating and capital projects
- New, expanded, modified and other eligible operating or capital projects, including previously funded projects not approved for renewal.
- Maintains access to funding for other jurisdictions and project sponsors

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Pilot streamlined renewal process

Recertification Form

- SamTrans submits recertification: scope, populations, service levels, ridership, performance, expenditures and funding need

Staff Review

- C/CAG checks continued eligibility, compliance, unchanged scope and satisfactory performance
- Material changes, service reductions or deficiencies may trigger a full competitive application

Committee/ Board approval

- C/CAG Committee and Board Review and Approval

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Competitive Call for Projects (Lifeline Program)

Estimated Funds Available

- Approximately $4.1 M in STA is available for competitive call

Eligible Project Type

- Transit Operations: New, expanded, modified and other eligible projects
- Capital: purchase of vehicles, bus stop improvements, active transportation

Grant Minimum and Maximum Amounts

- $55K–$130K: transit-based education/outreach projects
- $110K–$670K: shuttle/operations, transit or active transportation capital, transit pass, and fixed-route projects.

Local Match

- MTC Equity Priority Community/ Tier 1 C/CAG Equity Focus Area (11.47%)
- Tier 2 C/CAG EFA (15%)
- Other 20%

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Community Action Resource and Empowerment – Participatory Budgeting and Implementation (CARE PB)

- **Program Goal:** Supports implementation-ready capital transportation improvements identified through Community-Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs) or other qualifying community-driven planning efforts.

- **Source of Funds:** Federal transportation funds (OBAG) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds.

- **Eligible Projects:** Funding is restricted to implementation projects that meet Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) eligibility, project readiness, and implementation requirements.

- **Eligible Project Type:**
  - Complete Streets & Community Choice
    - Bicycle/Pedestrian Infrastructure
    - Safety Project
    - Complete Streets Improvements
    - Station Improvement

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Competitive Call for Projects (CARE PBI)

Estimated Funds Available

- Approximately $1.2 M in CARE PBI is available for capital projects only

Grant Minimum and Maximum

- $50K minimum grant request
- Projects Requesting for $250K or more must submit complete streets checklist

Local Match

- MTC Equity Priority Community/ Tier 1 C/CAG Equity Focus Area (11.47%)
- Tier 2 C/CAG EFA (15%)
- Other 20%

Programming

- Project Nomination list due to MTC June 30, 2027
- MTC Commission to consider nomination list Fall 2027

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Available Funding for Call for Projects

$4.9M Lifeline STA

- $782K Pilot Renewal Process (SamTrans Only)
- $4.1M Competitive Process
  - 70% Operating Projects
  - 30% Capital Projects

$1.2M CARE-PBI

- Competitive only
- Capital projects
- Minimum award: $50K

$6.1M Total

- Current two-year estimate of available funds
- Staff is working with MTC to finalize estimates

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Lifeline and CARE PBI Competitive Application Process

Process	Lifeline Transportation Program (STA)	CARE-PBI
Eligible Project Types	Operating and capital projects	Capital projects only
Application Requirements	C/CAG Lifeline Transportation Program application	Both C/CAG Lifeline and MTC CARE-PBI applications
Eligibility Screening	Lifeline and STA eligibility requirements	CARE-PBI eligibility and project readiness requirements
Evaluation Process	Shared selection panel	Shared selection panel
Scoring Criteria	Operating or capital project evaluation criteria, as applicable	Capital project evaluation criteria, plus CARE-PBI-specific requirements
Project Ranking	Ranked within applicable Lifeline funding pool	Ranked within CARE-PBI funding pool
Funding Recommendations	C/CAG staff and committee review, followed by Board consideration	C/CAG staff and committee review, followed by Board consideration
Final Approval	C/CAG Board approval, subject to applicable STA requirements	C/CAG Board recommendation and subsequent MTC final selection and approval
Funding Administration	Through an eligible transit agency/pass-through agreement	Subject to applicable CARE-PBI and MTC requirements

Scoring Criteria

Application criterion	Scoring components	Maximum
1. Project Need, Goals and Objectives	**Transportation Need & Alignment:** Demonstrates documented mobility gaps, proposed solutions, and alignment with Lifeline goals and regional policies.	25
2. Community-Identified Priority	**Community Priority & Benefits:** Demonstrates community support, direct benefits to low-income residents, and alignment with CBTP priorities.	15
3. Implementation Plan and Project Management Capacity	**Project Readiness & Capacity:** Provides a feasible implementation plan, addresses delivery risks, and demonstrates organizational capacity.	25
4. Coordination and Program Outreach	**Coordination & Engagement:** Identifies key partnerships, inclusive outreach strategies, and opportunities for ongoing community input.	15
5. Cost-Effectiveness and Performance Indicators	**Cost-Effectiveness & Performance:** Demonstrates reasonable costs, measurable outcomes, and a clear evaluation approach.	10
6. Project Budget and Sustainability	**Budget & Sustainability:** Provides a complete funding plan, required commitments, and a strategy for long-term operations or maintenance.	10
Total		**100**

Call for Projects Schedule

Activities	Date
CMP TAC Review and Approval	November 19, 2026
CMEQ Review and Approval	November 30, 2026
C/CAG Board Revie and Approval	December 10, 2026
Call for Projects Issued	December 11, 2026
Applicant Workshop	Tuesday, December 15, 2026
Applicant Office Hours	January 6th and 7th, 2027
Public Workshop	December 16, 2026 and January 5, 2027
Applications Due	Friday, January 22, 2027
Selection Panel Reviews Applications	January 27- February 15, 2027
C/CAG Committees Consider Recommendation	March 18th and 29th, 2027
C/CAG Board Considers Recommendations	April 8, 2027

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Recommendation

That the CMP TAC Review and recommend approval of the Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP) Cycle 8 Guidelines, including the implementation of a two-pathway funding approach consisting of a Pilot Streamlined Renewal Process and a Competitive Call for Projects.

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Thank You!

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