



Resource Management Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: August 27, 2024

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: Authorize the Submission of four (4) Grant Applications for Cycle 12 of the Highway Safety Improvement Program

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize and approve the submission of four (4) grant applications for funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program Cycle 12 with an estimated total project cost of \$7,297,900, and an estimated total of leveraging and match amount of \$729,790.
2. Authorize and direct the Resource Management Agency Director, or designee, to sign and submit all related grant applications once the applications are complete.
3. Direct the Resource Management Agency to provide a signed copy of the grant applications to the Clerk of the Board.

SUMMARY:

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is a federal funded source administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act that was enacted on December 14, 2015. The total funds available statewide for HSIP Cycle 12 are estimated at \$300 million. Senate Bill 137 allows the exchange of state funds with federal funds. It is estimated that \$150 million of federal funds and \$150 million of State funds will be used for all projects selected. Being that funding will be based on need and requirements, it is possible for the projects selected be state and/or federally funded in HSIP Cycle 12.

Local agencies are eligible to apply for HSIP grant funding to implement traffic collision countermeasures to reduce the frequency and severity of traffic collisions on their

SUBJECT: Authorize the Submission of four (4) Grant Applications for Cycle 12 of the Highway Safety Improvement Program

DATE: August 27, 2024

maintained roadways. Projects can range from \$100,000 to \$10 million in cost. Previously, County of Tulare has been awarded \$15.4 million in HSIP funding for Safety related projects starting in Cycle 5 to the most recent Cycle 11.

Funding for this current cycle (Cycle 12) will be awarded to projects based on a competitive, data driven selection process, primarily based on a benefit/cost analysis similar to previous HSIP funding cycles. There is no limit to the number of applications an agency may submit under the benefit cost ration (BCR) category in Cycle 12. However, the maximum HSIP funds that one agency may be awarded under the BCR category is \$10 million. Projects with the highest BCR, compared to other competing agencies statewide, will be selected for funding. In this funding allocation method, proposed projects are only successful when a location has a documented history of collisions.

The HSIP Set-Aside (SA) funding will be used for projects that have high potential for safety issues, but no collision history. Thus, BCR's are not applicable for this portion of the funding. This results in opening the criteria for the types of projects that can be submitted for consideration. Each of the SA categories have a limit for maximum funding per agency. The Cycle 12 SA categories include the following:

- **Guardrail Upgrades:** \$1 million max per agency
- **Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements:** up to \$350,000 per agency
- **Installing Edgelines:** up to \$350,000 per agency
- **Bike Safety Improvements:** up to \$350,000 per agency
- **Tribes:** up to \$350,000 per Tribe

Grant applications are due September 9, 2024. Caltrans expects to notify applicants of successful projects in December 2024/January 2025.

The Resource Management Agency (RMA) has performed traffic collision analysis at various locations throughout the County of Tulare in accordance with the HSIP guidelines. RMA can identify the following projects as the highest priority for submission to request HSIP Cycle 12 funding:

Project 1: Corridor Safety Improvements Project

Four locations have been identified for the Corridor Safety Improvements Project. The locations are as follows:

- Location 1: Avenue 56 from Earlimart to Ducor (12 mi.)
- Location 2: Road 152 from Avenue 144 to Avenue 232 (11 mi.)
- Location 3: Road 224 from North Grand (Canal) to Avenue 192 (3 mi.)
- Location 4: Avenue 256 from Mooney Blvd. to Road 216 (12.5 mi.)

Improvements to these locations will include installing/upgrading signs and installing rumble strips. Additionally, the installation of a left-turn lane at the intersection of Avenue 256 and Road 156 and flashing beacons at the stop-controlled intersections of Avenue 256 with Road 124 and Road 188, are being considered.

SUBJECT: Authorize the Submission of four (4) Grant Applications for Cycle 12 of the Highway Safety Improvement Program

DATE: August 27, 2024

The overall project cost is estimated at approximately \$4,500,000 with a calculated BCR of approximately 23. If authorized, this project would require approximately \$450,000 (10%) in local match, which would be covered by Local Road Funds.

Project 2: Avenue 184 and Orange Belt Drive Intersection Improvements

The intersection of Avenue 184 and Orange Belt Drive was identified with a higher-than-average number of collisions. From April 2019 to March 2022 there were nine (9) collisions at this intersection. Of the nine (9) collisions, one (1) was a fatal collision and two (2) were identified as severely injured. Staff believes that the installation of left-turn lanes would minimize the collision severity and frequency.

The overall project cost is estimated at approximately \$1,300,000 with a calculated BCR of 19.7. If authorized, this project would require approximately \$130,000 (10%) in local match that would be covered by Local Road Funds.

Project 3: Guardrails

This project is referring to upgrading existing, damaged, outdated, and destroyed guardrails to the most recent standards through the Guardrail Upgrades Set-Aside. The following locations are being considered for this application:

- Location 1: Diagonal 92B (DRV 92B), west of State Route 99
- Location 2: Road 68 at Mill Creek approximately 3,400 ft. north of Avenue 280
- Location 3: Avenue 120 over State Route 99
- Location 4: Avenue 368 at Cottonwood Creek approximately 1,000 ft. west of Road 108

The overall project cost is estimated at approximately \$1,109,400. If authorized, this project would require approximately \$110,940 (10%) in local match, which would be covered by Local Road Funds.

Project 4: Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements

This project will utilize the Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements Set-Aside component to improve the crossing at three (3) locations. The following locations are being considered for this application:

- Location 1: Orosi High School (Road 126 and Avenue 417, Orosi)
- Location 2: Waukena Joint Union Elementary School (Road 28, approximately 500 ft. southeast from State Route 137, Waukena)
- Location 3: Woodville Elementary School (Road 168 and Avenue 167, Woodville)

Improvements to these locations will include high visibility crosswalk, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), advanced flashing beacons, and pavement markings.

SUBJECT: Authorize the Submission of four (4) Grant Applications for Cycle 12 of the Highway Safety Improvement Program

DATE: August 27, 2024

The overall project cost is estimated at approximately \$388,500. If authorized, this project would require approximately \$38,850 (10%) in local match, which would be covered by Local Road Funds.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no net County Cost to the General Fund.

The cost of preparing the preliminary analysis and application submissions is not reimbursable under the HSIP program; however, this cost is budgeted in the current fiscal year Road's Budget.

Based on the project's maximum Federal Reimbursement Ratio and the proposed countermeasures being utilized, a local match will be required to cover a percentage of the projects' overall cost. County Road Funds will be used to cover the required local match and the leveraged fund amounts.

Funding being applied for (HSIP Funds)	\$7,297,900
10% Local Match (County Road Funds)	\$729,790
Total Cost of Projects	\$8,027,690

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Safety and Security and Quality of Life – The proposed projects will improve the safety and security of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, and improve the quality of life for the residents by providing improved and safer infrastructure opportunities.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A: HSIP Cycle 12 Project Locations Map(s)