

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	June 22, 2023
SUBJECT:	Approve \$355,186 in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Funds for Preliminary On-Call Engineering Projects
AGENDA ITEM:	7-7
STAFF CONTACT:	Mehdi Moeinaddini, Associate Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

In April 2022, the SRTA Board of Directors allocated \$500,000 in COVID Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds toward the Fix 5 Cascade Gateway project and \$355,186 toward a regional on-call engineering consultant assistance program. Subsequent staff programming efforts were denied and SRTA was advised by Caltrans HQ and California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff to provide a more specific set of projects, despite prior direction. As a result, SRTA sought project ideas from regional partners for allocation of the available \$355,186 in funds. Recommended projects are presented for the board of directors' consideration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors:

1. Approve providing \$355,186 in COVID STBGP funds toward the recommended projects; and
2. Authorize the executive director to execute agreements with the respective agencies, make any administrative amendments necessary to meet state requirements, and to coordinate the programming of funds with Caltrans District 2.

DISCUSSION:

Background – In 2021, Congress passed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), which provided funds to California that were ultimately apportioned to regions as both an amount for their Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs), as well as an amount that each agency could program outside the RTIP. The intent was to provide funding to regions to compensate for the loss of revenue due to the pandemic. The amount made available through the RTIP was \$1,380,046 and was incorporated into SRTA's 2022 RTIP approved on December 14, 2021. The second amount of \$855,186 was Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds.

At the April 2022 board meeting, the SRTA Board of Directors allocated \$355,186 of the STBGP funds for an on-call engineering consultant to assist in developing projects, so understaffed jurisdictions may still take advantage of funding opportunities from various grant programs (see Attachment B). The purpose of these funds is to assist agencies in completing preliminary engineering design work that leads to projects being submitted for federal or state funding.

Subsequent SRTA Board of Directors action, requests to program the funds for the on-call engineering effort were denied. SRTA staff was advised by Caltrans and California Transportation Commission (CTC)

staff that prior guidance for an “on-call” project would not work and that a more specific set of projects, consistent with the intent for use of the funds is necessary.

Project Ideas – SRTA reached out to regional partners to request the submittal of project ideas on May 12, 2023. Applications were due by May 26, 2023. SRTA received 5 project ideas for consideration, which are summarized below. Funding requests ranged from \$60,000 to \$360,000. Available project location maps are attached.

Project Idea #1: The City of Shasta Lake wants to build a multi-use trail system, including mountain biking opportunities, to connect key destinations in the community. The city aims to become an International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Ride Center and build a bike depot and other amenities for the Cascade Village affordable housing complex. Funding was requested to support preliminary engineering design work.

Project Idea #2: Shasta County would hire a consultant to help assess traffic control at over 35 Shasta County schools and provide recommendations for improvements to comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and enhance safety. The report will be used to apply for grants for school zone traffic control improvements.

Project Idea #3: Shasta County has many culverts that are important for managing waterways during extreme weather and to reduce impacts to transportation. However, Shasta County does not have a list of culvert locations or their condition information. To address this, a consultant will be hired to locate and assess all culverts and create a database for maintenance planning and asset management. The study report may also be used to seek climate-resilience grant opportunities.

Project Idea #4: The Churn Creek Road corridor needs improvements due to recent and future developments. The city of Redding is studying the interchange at Interstate 5 and South Bonnyview Road, funding a roundabout, and planning to add pedestrian and bike facilities. They need a design that is consistent with both ends to prepare for grants to construct this complete street project.

Project Idea #5: The Railroad Avenue Bike Facilities project will connect bike facilities along Railroad Avenue from Downtown Redding to Buenaventura Boulevard. The project is important in connecting facilities on the south side of the city of Redding and requested funds are for the completion of the Project Study Report.

Project Idea Review, Funding, and Recommendations – SRTA staff evaluated the proposed projects and reached a consensus score (maximum of 25 points) for each project. The evaluation process was focused on ensuring that the selected projects would have a positive impact on the region, while also providing benefits to those who are often overlooked. Scoring criteria included the following:

- 10 points for projects ability to meet Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and regional priorities;
- 10 points for region-wide benefits; and
- 5 points for projects that had benefits for disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.

Staff recommends the board of directors consider funding the projects as shown in Table 1, subject to state approval. Once projects are approved, SRTA anticipates programming funds with Caltrans by the August 2023 California Transportation Commission meeting. Funds must be obligated toward approved project(s) by June 2024.

Table 1 – Project Funding Recommendations

Applicant	Score (out of 25)	Project	Requested funds	Recommended Funding
Shasta County	20.5	School Zone Traffic Control Assessments	\$115,000	\$115,000
City of Redding	20	Railroad Avenue Bike Facilities	\$60,000-\$150,000	\$110,186
Shasta County	18.75	Arterial and Collector Culvert Assessments	\$130,000	\$130,000
City of Shasta Lake	17.5	City of Shasta Lake Conceptual Bike Trails Plan	\$70,000	-
City of Redding	10	Churn Creek Road Corridor Connector	\$300,000-\$360,000	-
Total				\$355,186

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may forgo on-call engineering consultants through the STBGP funds, modify funding for one or more of the submitted project ideas, or allocate funds towards other potential project ideas.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

SRTA was provided with guidance from both Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff and proactively engaged with regional partners for the project ideas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These funds were apportioned in 2021 to SRTA for discretionary use. There is no adverse impact to SRTA's existing operating and planning budget. Any project overage costs will have to be borne by the local agency.



Jessica Carlson, Chief Fiscal Officer

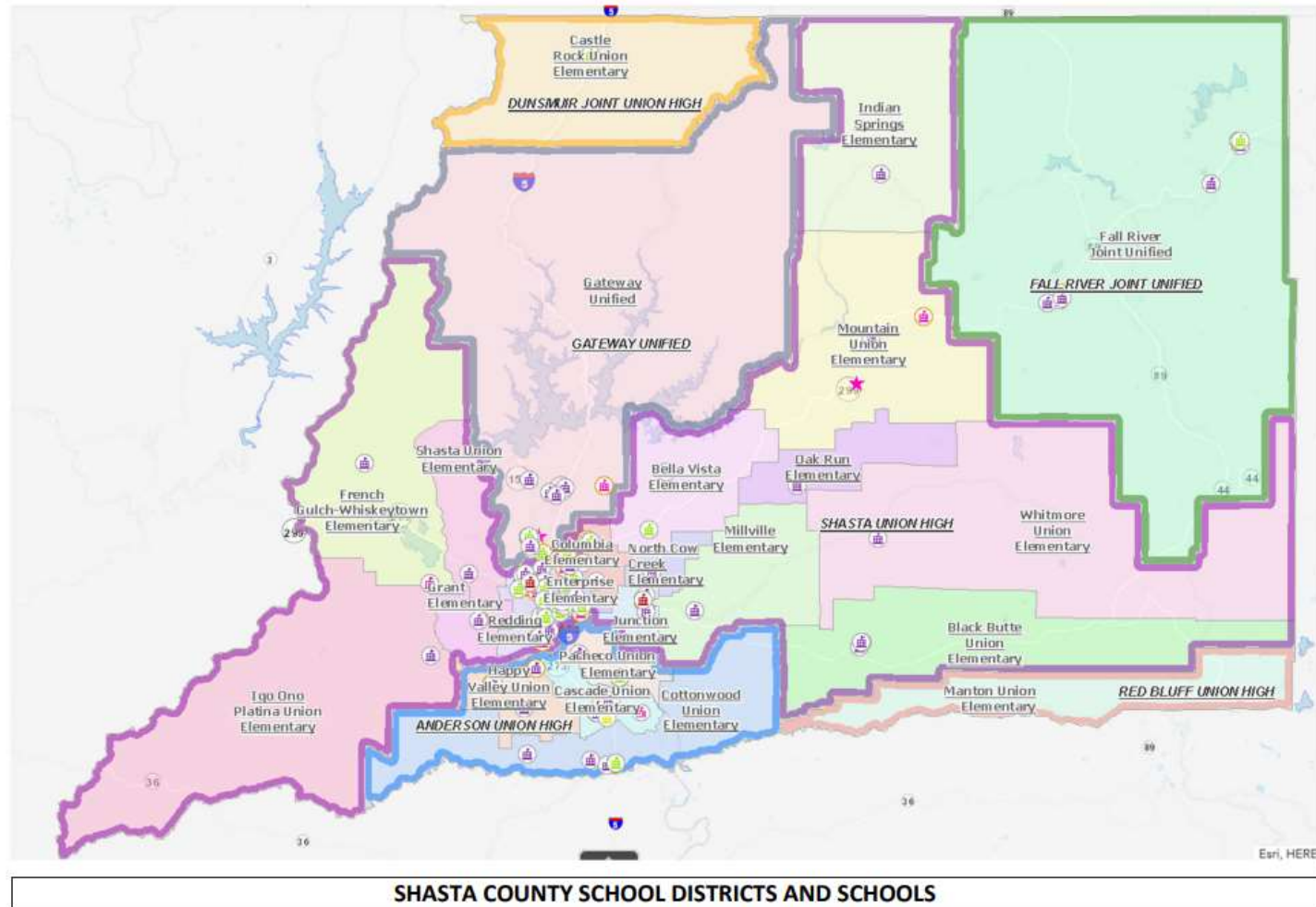
Attachments:

A: Available maps of the project locations

B: April 28, 2022, STBGP staff report:

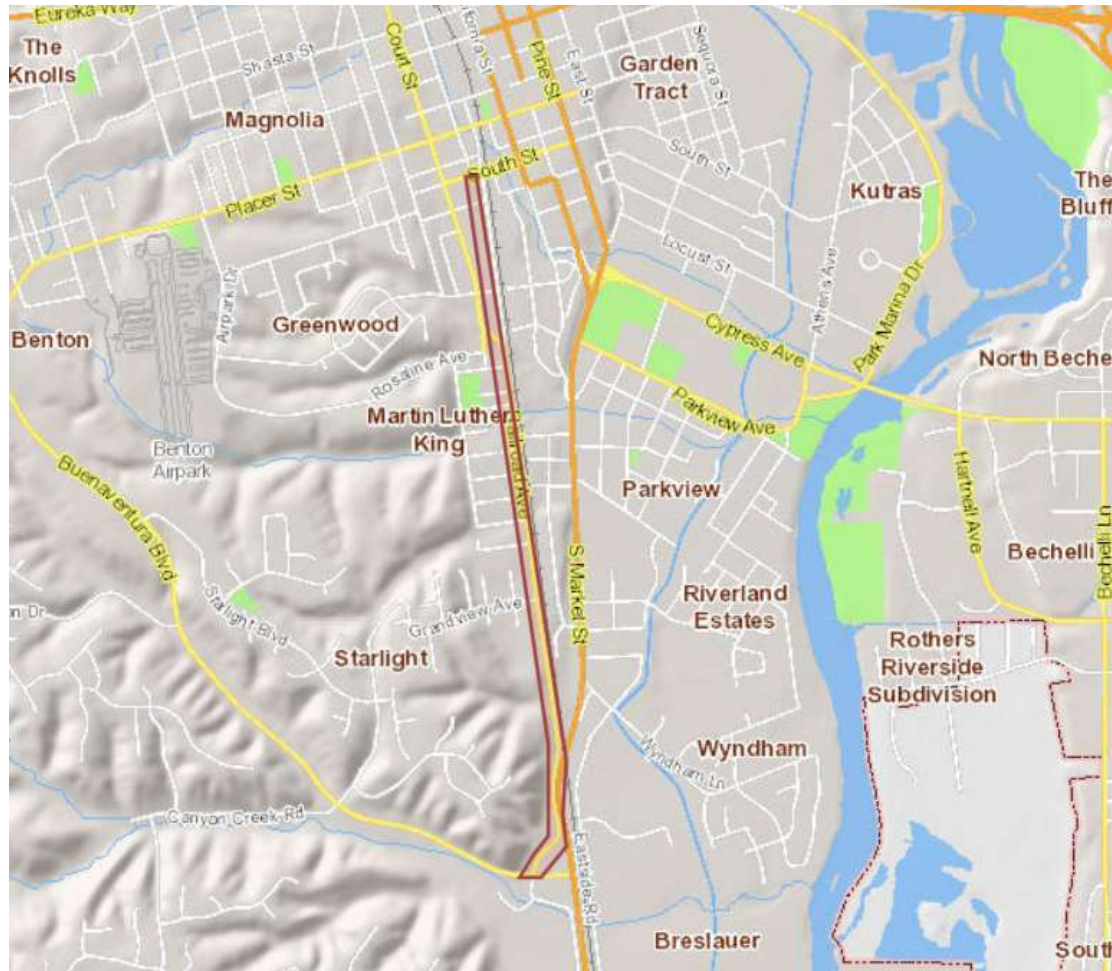
https://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5923/14_STBGP-Projects-Selection_04-28-2022

School Zone Traffic Control Assessments (Shasta County)

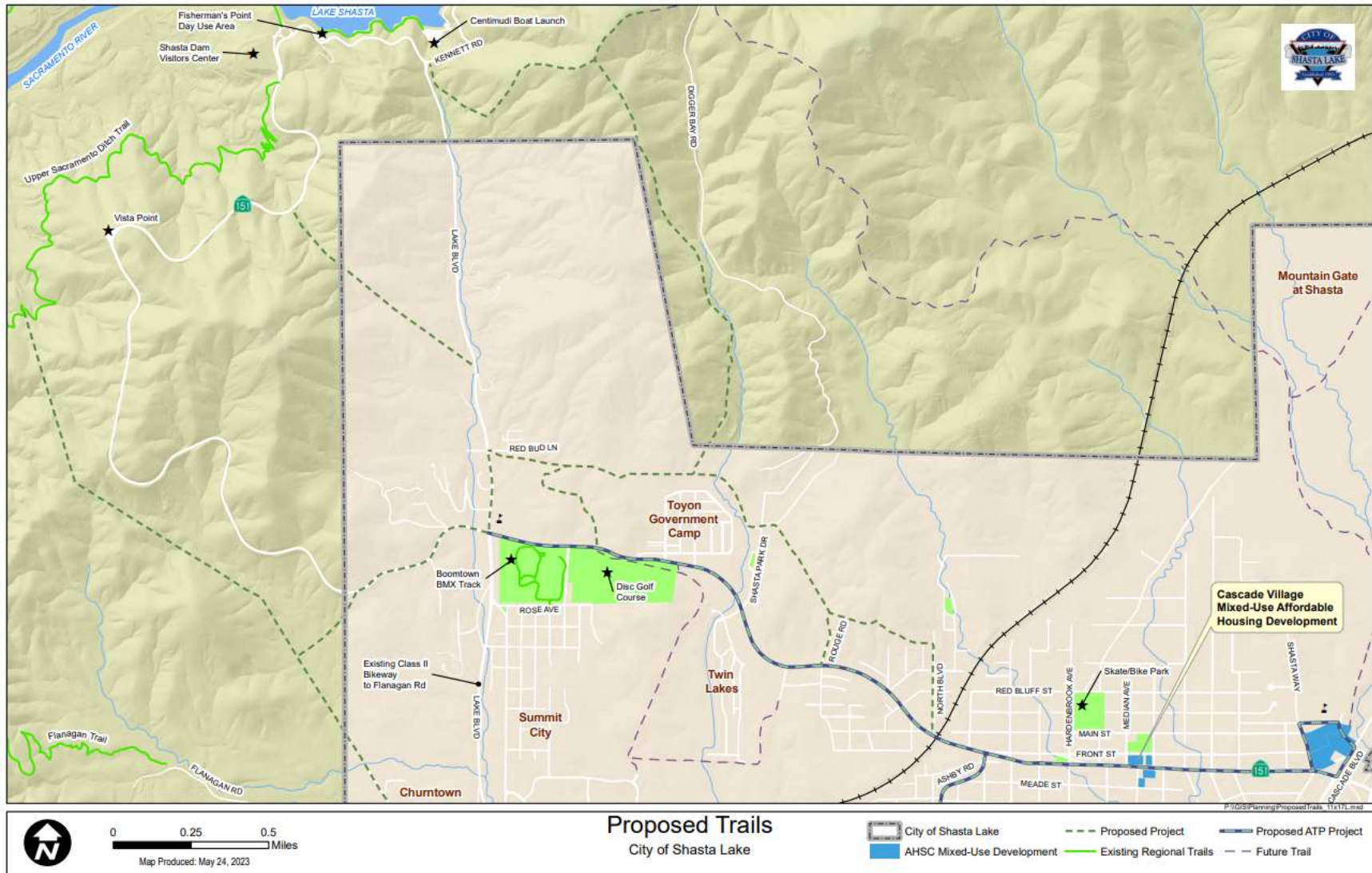


Note: This map includes all school districts and schools throughout the entire county. The proposed project would be for schools in the unincorporated areas only.

Railroad Ave Bike Facilities (City of Redding)



City of Shasta Lake Conceptual Bike Trails Plan



Churn Creek Road Corridor Connector (City of Redding)



