

STAFF REPORT



MEETING DATE:	October 27, 2022
SUBJECT:	Receive Update on Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Program
AGENDA ITEM:	9
STAFF CONTACT:	Mehdi Moeinaddini, Associate Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

The Shasta Region has the opportunity to apply for up to \$2,243,909 in Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 funds that will help further housing development opportunities in the region that connect people to jobs and essential services, and mobility options such as public transit and active transportation. SRTA issued a call for projects from eligible entities on October 18, 2022. A list of recommended projects will be presented for board of directors' consideration at the December meeting. SRTA must submit approved projects to the State by December 31, 2022.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors receive an update on the REAP 2.0 Program.

DISCUSSION:

Background – In July 2022, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for \$510 million in Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program of 2021 (REAP 2.0) funds. Eighty-five percent of the funds are being directly allocated to the state's metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). MPOs may request funds by submitting an application of eligible projects. The Shasta Region can apply for up to \$2,243,909.

Program Focus and Objectives – REAP 2.0 builds on efforts from California's 2019 REAP program, which provided \$125 million in flexible planning funds to regional governments in urban regions and counties in rural regions to accelerate housing production consistent with regional housing goals. REAP 2.0 expands the focus by integrating housing and climate goals, and allowing for broader planning and implementation activities, including transportation and infrastructure investments that support future housing.

REAP 2.0 is focused on multiple objectives such as infill development, housing for all incomes, reduction of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and increasing public transit use to meet state and regional goals. Per the program guidelines, REAP 2.0 is specifically designed to provide MPOs with the tools and resources to implement the Sustainable Communities Strategies portion of their Regional Transportation Plans.

Eligible Applicants – Eligible primary applicants are limited to MPOs and Councils of Governments (COGs). SRTA is tasked with administering the program on behalf of the Shasta Region and submitting projects for consideration by HCD. SRTA may submit projects to manage or suballocate funds to projects that will be

managed by eligible entities. Entities eligible for the purpose of suballocation include counties, cities, cities and counties, transit agencies or districts, county transportation agencies, Tribal Entities, community-based organizations, Public Housing Authorities, academic institutions, developers of affordable housing, or a regional Housing Trust Fund.

Eligible Uses – Examples of eligible uses may include, but are not limited to:

- Accelerating infill development that facilitates housing supply, choice, and affordability.
- Implementing bicycle or pedestrian plans by investing in active transportation infrastructure.
- Establishing a local or regional VMT mitigation bank.
- Implementing policies or plans that increase transit ridership such as on-demand transportation service, multimodal access plans to and from transit facilities, and additional Housing near transit.

Outreach Activities and Next Steps – SRTA began an outreach campaign on September 28, 2022, and issued a call for projects on October 18, 2022. Staff will present a list of recommended projects for approval at the December board of directors meeting. A final package of SRTA-approved projects must be submitted to HCD by December 31, 2022, for review. HCD has the final say on project awards. Funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2024, and spent by March 31, 2026.

ALTERNATIVES:

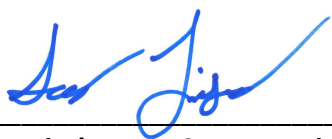
The board of directors may provide comments on the types of projects they would like to see prioritized.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

REAP 2.0 is administered by the HCD in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

FISCAL IMPACT:

A total of \$2,243,909 in REAP 2.0 program grant funds has been allocated to the Shasta Region, which will be administered by SRTA. SRTA will use five percent of the funds (\$112,195) for administration of the program. A new work element may be added to our Overall Work Program or to the comprehensive budget for the administration of the program.



Sean Tiedgen, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments:

A: SRTA Call for REAP 2.0 Projects

Available at: https://www.srta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6045/REAP_20_Pre-Application

B: Notice of Funding Availability and Final Guidelines – Metropolitan Planning Organization Allocation Regional Early Action Planning Grant (REAP 2.0)

Available at: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/docs/grants-and-funding/MPO-REAP-2-0-Final-Guidelines.pdf>