

## **Memorandum**

To: Capital Area MPO Technical Coordinating Committee

From: CAMPO Staff

Date: May 28, 2019

Re: FFY 2021 LAPP Program

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The next round of LAPP applications will be open in August 2019 and will be for the FFY 2021 project cycle. Staff has reviewed the issues brought up during the FFY 2020 cycle and provided recommendations to address those issues.

### **Issues addressed in this memo:**

- Increased Measures to Avoid Unnecessary Exposed Funding to Future Rescissions
- Annual Target Modal Investment Mix

### **Issue: Increased Measures to Avoid Unnecessary Exposed Funding to Future Rescissions**

One of the goals of the LAPP Program is to avoid future federal rescissions to the maximum extent possible. Projects reaching their funding authorization deadlines on time is a critical factor to protect LAPP funding from a rescission. CAMPO Staff has observed numerous projects not reach their federal funding authorization deadline. This leaves increased CAMPO funds vulnerable to a rescission.

**Staff Recommendation:** CAMPO Staff recommends two strategies to help mitigate this issue:

- 1) *Stricter enforcement of June reprogramming exercise:* LAPP projects are expected to receive full funding authorization for all phases of the project requested in the fiscal year application. The LAPP Handbook currently states that the LAPP Selection Panel can provide a recommendation to reprogram any funding that has been left unobligated by the end of the fiscal year. In previous years, CAMPO has not utilized the Selection Panel for this use, as there was not a current threat of a rescission, allowing projects to continue to future years if the initial deadline was not reached. CAMPO staff recommends a stricter utilization of this process to protect future funds from rescission. Moving forward, the LAPP Selection Panel would review any project that is not anticipated to receive funding authorization in its original application year and provide a recommendation on whether to allow the project to move forward or to remove federal funding from the project and program that funding elsewhere. The timeline to implement is as follows:

March: CAMPO Staff will research previously-submitted LAPP projects to determine if there are any unfunded projects that are shovel-ready. These potential projects could be used to obligate any remaining exposed funding at the end of the fiscal year, if adopted by the CAMPO Executive

Board. Potential projects must have competed in a previous round of LAPP; however, the phase(s) competed for do not have to be the same phases funded in the June reprogramming exercise.

June: CAMPO Staff will present all projects that have not submitted requests for funding authorization to the CAMPO TCC and Executive Board at their respective June meetings. Following these meetings, the LAPP Selection Panel will meet to discuss exposed projects. This will be a closed meeting between CAMPO Staff and the Selection Panel; information from project managers will be compiled prior to the meeting to explain reasons for delay. The LAPP Selection panel will provide a recommendation on any reprogramming or deprogramming of projects that will not reach the funding authorization deadline.

August: CAMPO Staff will present the LAPP Selection Panel recommendation to the CAMPO Executive Board for consideration. The CAMPO Executive Board will take action on whether to deprogram or reprogram any projects that do not meet their fiscal year funding authorization deadline.

- 2) *Enhanced communication for missed project deadlines:* In order to provide more transparency and diligent tracking of project milestones, CAMPO will increase communication when concerns regarding projects status are raised. LAPP applicants are required to submit anticipated milestones in their project applications, which are reviewed and discussed at the pre-submittal meeting to ensure plausibility. These milestones include municipal agreement approval, NEPA approval, Right of Way certification, etc. Adhering to the schedule submitted in a LAPP application is usually necessary to receive funding authorization before the fiscal year deadline. CAMPO Staff currently communicates project status to the TCC and Executive Board members at their monthly meetings; however, CAMPO Staff will increase the audience and frequency of communication to help hold project sponsors more accountable to project deadlines. Once a project misses a deadline submitted in a LAPP application, CAMPO Staff may reach out to the project manager to check in. If delays on project progress reach a level of concern to CAMPO Staff, Staff will send a notice of the missed deadline(s) to the project manager, jurisdiction's TCC member(s), and Executive Board member to provide transparency. CAMPO staff will also continue to provide the LAPP Unobligated Funding Reports to the TCC and Executive Board.

### **Issue: Annual Target Modal Investment Mix**

The target modal investment mix for the FY20 round of LAPP was 68% roadway, 24% bike/ped, and 8% transit. This was a slight change from the FY19 round, which had 64% roadway, 24% bike/ped, and 12% transit. Over the life of LAPP, roadway average target has been 65.2% and roadway actual programming has been 61.3%; bike/ped average target has been 20.9% and bike/ped actual programming has been 26%; transit has averaged a 13.8% target modal investment mix and a 12.6% actual programming. In previous years, CAMPO staff has noticed a trend of an increased number of unfunded bike/ped projects relative to roadway and transit. CAMPO Staff has also noticed a trend in the target modal investment mix

and the adopted modal investment mix, which shows a higher actual bike/ped percentage and a lower roadway percentage.

**Staff Recommendations:** CAMPO staff recommends increasing the target modal investment mix for bicycle and pedestrian projects by 3% to bring the total bicycle and pedestrian percentage to 27%. This 3% would come from the roadway mode, leaving the total roadway at 65%. This would return the roadway funding category to its historic target. The transit modal mix would remain at 8%. This determination comes from the growing need for funding bicycle and pedestrian projects since the creation of SPOT and the LAPP funding trends discussed above. Illustrations of the target and actual historic modal mixes are shown below.



