

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 11, 2013

Reference No.: 2.8a.(2)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Denix D. Anbiah
Division Chief
Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR
LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED STIP PROJECTS, PER STIP GUIDELINES
WAIVER 13-23**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project allocation for the projects listed on the attached document for the time periods shown.

ISSUE:

The attached document identifies 11 projects totaling \$5,859,000 that are programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for delivery in Fiscal Year 2012-13. The agencies will not be able to request an allocation of funds by the June 30, 2013 deadline. The attachment shows the details of the projects and the explanation for the delays. The project sponsors are requesting extensions, and the regional planning agencies concur.

BACKGROUND:

Current STIP Guidelines adopted by the Commission stipulate that funds that are programmed for all components of local grant projects or for Department construction costs are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year identified in the STIP. The Commission may approve a waiver to the timely use of funds deadline one time only for up to 20 months in accordance with Section 14529.8 of the Government Code.

Attachment

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline
Local Streets and Roads Projects**

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount (\$ in thousands) PA&ED (Project Approval & Environment Document) PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) ROW (Right of Way) CON (Construction) TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
1	City of Arcata Humboldt County PPNO: 01-0302I Arcata Rails with Trails project, Phase I, TE	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$842 \$842	8 Months 02/28/2014 Support
<p>The City of Arcata (City) is requesting an eight-month extension to the period of allocation for the construction phase of the Arcata Rails with Trails Phase I TE project. The City has experienced delays in finalizing the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E). The City experienced delays in completing the PS&E phase due to a longer than anticipated public input process.</p> <p>Numerous stakeholders are involved in the project, and several public scoping meetings were held to resolve block-by-block design details, particularly regarding access to private properties and the preservation of existing landscape features. Addressing the community's concerns has delayed the completion of the project plans. The City anticipates the final design to be completed by October 2013. The City expects to obtain the CEQA approval by June 2013 and NEPA approval by September 2013. The City anticipates requesting construction authorization by December 2013. To allow for any unforeseen issues, the City is requesting an eight-month extension to February 28, 2014.</p>			
2	County of Humboldt Humboldt County PPNO: 01-2257 School Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane, TE	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$518 \$518	6 Months 12/31/2013 Support
<p>The County of Humboldt (County) is requesting a six-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the School Road Pedestrian TE project. The County has experienced delays in advancing the project towards construction due to updating survey data for Right of Way (R/W) requirements, obtaining a California Coastal Commission and Humboldt County Planning Commission (HCPC) permits, additional environmental studies required for NEPA, and compliance with new American Disability Act (ADA) requirements.</p> <p>The County proposes to construct sidewalks in the community of McKinleyville. During the preliminary design phase, the County realized some of the existing surveys dated back to 1865 and had conflicting roadway widths through the project limits. The County undertook extensive R/W research to identify and eliminate the conflicts, thus causing a two-month delay to the project. Prior to starting the R/W phase of the project, the NEPA requirement had to be completed. The County did not anticipate having to perform a Cultural Study or Historic Property evaluation for the NEPA process. The additional studies delayed the County approximately four-months; NEPA compliance was obtained in November 2012. The project is located within the California Coastal Zone and subject to HCPC authorization. The County did not proceed with final design and R/W activities until the permits were issued since the permit conditions may have resulted in altering the design or acquiring additional R/W. The permits were issued in October 2012 and the R/W allocation request submitted in November 2012. In January 2013, the Department of General Services, Division of State Architect (DSA) reviewed the project and found the proposed sidewalks would no longer meet the ADA 48" obstruction clearance guidelines. Additional R/W easements were needed to relocate existing utility poles. The County has since revised the project plans, submitted the record of survey with the County Clerk and proceeded with R/W and negotiations. The County anticipates completing the R/W phase and submitting for construction authorization by December 2013. Therefore, the County is requesting a six-month extension to December 31, 2013.</p>			

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline
Local Streets and Roads Projects**

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount (\$ in thousands) PA&ED (Project Approval & Environment Document) PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) ROW (Right of Way) CON (Construction) TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
3	City of Blue Lake Humboldt County PPNO: 01-2289 I Street Pedestrian Improvements project	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$105 \$105	4 Months 10/31/2013 Support
<p>The City of Blue Lake (City) is requesting a four-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the I Street Pedestrian Improvements project. The City experienced delays in obtaining NEPA compliance.</p> <p>The project includes constructing sidewalks and pedestrian improvements in the City of Blue Lake. The delay in NEPA compliance resulted from complications in determining the potential for impacts to historically significant structures adjacent to the proposed work. The City is currently modifying the project design to avoid unexpected and unfunded costs related to assessing potential impacts to historic structures. The additional effort has delayed the City by four months. The City anticipates completing the design by August 2013. To allow for any unforeseen issues, the City is requesting a four-month time extension to October 31, 2013.</p>			
4	Trinity County Trinity County PPNO: 02-2399D Lewiston Road Bike/Pedestrian Lane project, TE	\$0 \$0 \$135 \$0 \$135	10 Months 4/30/2014 Support
<p>The County of Trinity (County) is requesting a 10-month extension to the period of allocation for the Right of Way (R/W) phase of the Lewiston Road Bike/Pedestrian Lane TE project. The County experienced delays in completing the Plans, Specification and Estimates (PS&E) phase of the project due to environmental issues during the NEPA process.</p> <p>The selection of the preferred alternative at the end of the expenditure timeline for Project Approval & Environmental Document delayed the NEPA process since federal resource agencies will not consult on multiple alternatives. In addition, botanical surveys and wetland delineation must be done in the Spring, and are dependent on normal weather patterns. Unusual weather patterns in the Spring of 2012 prevented the development of wetland conditions and verifiable wetland delineation, and botanical surveys were not possible under these conditions. This delayed the federal resource agency consultation, and the completion of environmental reports needed for the NEPA document by 12 months. The County anticipates completing the final design by December 2013 and submitting the Request for Authorization for R/W in January 2014. The County anticipates requesting the R/W allocation in March 2014. To allow for any unforeseen issues, the County is requesting a 10-month time extension to April 30, 2014.</p>			

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline
Local Streets and Roads Projects**

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount (\$ in thousands) PA&ED (Project Approval & Environment Document) PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) ROW (Right of Way) CON (Construction) TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
5	Butte County Butte County PPNO: 03-3124H Neal Road and Cohasset Road Bike project, TE	\$0 \$50 \$0 \$0 \$50	14 Months 08/31/2014 Support
<p>The County of Butte (County) is requesting a 14-month extension to the period of allocation for Plans, Specification and Estimates (PS&E) for the Neal Road and Cohasset Road Bike TE project. The County has experienced delays in obtaining NEPA approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).</p> <p>The County did not anticipate undergoing a formal consultation with mitigation for direct impacts to critical habitat for endangered species known to reside in the project vicinity. During an informal field review of several critical habitat locations with USFWS and County staff in October 2012, County staff was told the project's impacts on species with normal mitigations would most likely be found to be "not likely to adversely affect". In addition to the formal consultation, USFWS is requesting a second year of surveys for Butte County Meadowfoam (BCM). The County was able to conduct the additional studies during the critical flowering season and is currently attempting to determine if the current Natural Environmental Study (NES) is still usable. There is currently no set timeline for the final action to be taken by USFWS for any actions that entail to achieve "compensation" mitigation.</p> <p>The original level of CEQA documentation was focused towards a categorical exemption. However, the County may be required to perform additional studies pending the outcome with USFWS. Therefore, the County is requesting a 14-month extension for the PS&E phase to August 31, 2014.</p>			
6	City of Woodland Yolo County PPNO: 03-3194 Downtown Streetscape project, TE	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$915 \$915	20 Months 02/28/2015 Neutral
<p>The City of Woodland (City) is requesting a 20-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the Downtown Streetscape TE project. The City has experienced delays in the advancing the project toward construction due to coordination efforts with the construction of the new Yolo County Courthouse (Courthouse).</p> <p>The City's project is adjacent to the proposed Courthouse. Constructing the City's project prior to the Courthouse construction would expose the improvements to significant damage by the subsequent Courthouse construction project and its required heavy equipment. The current schedule for the Courthouse project offsite improvements is late Summer or Fall of 2014, but the City has no control over the State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) or their schedule. The City is requesting a full 20-month extension to ensure there is adequate time to start the project after the completion of the offsite improvements of the Courthouse project.</p>			

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline
Local Streets and Roads Projects**

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount (\$ in thousands) PA&ED (Project Approval & Environment Document) PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) ROW (Right of Way) CON (Construction) TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
7	City of Taft Kern County PPNO: 06-6555 Hillard Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements project, TE	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$249 \$249	8 Months 02/28/2014 Support
<p>The City of Taft (City) is requesting an eight-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the Hillard Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements TE project. The City has experienced delays to advancing the project toward construction due to coordination efforts with a proposed Tract development project (Tract 7230).</p> <p>The proposed City project includes a bike and pedestrian path providing access from "A" Street park and residential neighborhoods to the existing City's Rails and Trails multi-use path. The bike/pedestrian path and Tract 7230 project limits overlap entirely north of "A" Street park. Both projects are dependent on one another with respect to site plan layouts, elevations, grades, drainage, and tract circulation and access. The projects' CEQA documents and studies recently went through the public review phase. The City needs additional time to coordinate improvements/grades of the proposed housing tract development that have resulted from the public's concerns. These issues have caused delay to the project's design and environmental process since the projects are tied directly together, but are functioning under different time lines. The City has moved forward with the project's design and environmental phases and is coordinating with the developer of Tract 7230 to tie the projects' improvements together. The City anticipates NEPA approval within four to six months and completion of the PS&E package two months after. Therefore, the City is requesting an eight-month extension to February 28, 2014.</p>			
8	County of Inyo Inyo County PPNO: 09-2034 South Bishop Resurfacing project	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$1,673 \$1,673	18 Months 12/31/2014 Support
<p>The County of Inyo (County) is requesting an 18-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the South Bishop Resurfacing project. The County experienced delays to the Plan Specification & Estimate (PS&E) phase of the project due to environmental issues.</p> <p>This project proposes to rehabilitate the roadway surface and shares the same alignment as Sunland Drive from US 395 to State Route 168 (PPNO 09-2586). In addition to the project sharing the same alignment, they also share a joint CEQA/NEPA document. The County experienced delays in completing the CEQA and NEPA process due to unforeseen cultural and archaeological issues. The County did not anticipate encountering cultural resources within the project limits since the project is within their maintained, previously undisturbed, prescriptive right of way. The Department's archaeological specialist identified potential cultural resource issues in the project vicinity during the review of the Preliminary Environmental Studies (PES) form. The County will have to perform an archaeological survey and records search to comply with CEQA/NEPA. The County requested and received a time extension for the PS&E phase at the June 2012 Commission meeting. Since the CEQA/NEPA document is not yet complete, the County cannot request authorization of the PS&E funds nor complete the design to meet the originally programmed June 2013 Construction (CON) allocation deadline. Therefore, the County is requesting an 18-month extension to December 2014 to align the projects PS&E and CON timelines.</p>			

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation Deadline
Local Streets and Roads Projects**

Project #	Applicant County PPNO Project Description Reason for Project Delay	Extension Amount (\$ in thousands) PA&ED (Project Approval & Environment Document) PS&E (Plans, Specifications & Estimates) ROW (Right of Way) CON (Construction) TOTAL	Number of Months Requested Extended Deadline CT Recommendation
9	Inyo County Inyo County PPNO: 09-2586 Sunland Drive Bicycle Lanes project, TE	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$670 \$670	18 Months 12/31/2014 Support
<p>The County of Inyo (County) is requesting an 18-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the Sunland Drive Bicycle Lanes TE project. The County experienced delays to the Plan Specification & Estimate (PS&E) phase of the project due to environmental issues.</p> <p>This project proposes to widen the existing roadway to install bicycle lanes and shares the same alignment as South Bishop Resurfacing project (PPNO 09-2034). In addition to the project sharing the same alignment, they also share a joint CEQA/NEPA document. The County experienced delays in completing the CEQA/NEPA process due to unforeseen cultural and archaeological issues. The County did not anticipate encountering cultural resources within the project limits since the project is within their maintained, previously undisturbed, prescriptive right of way. The Departments archaeological specialist identified potential cultural resource issues in the project vicinity during the review of the Preliminary Environmental Studies (PES) form. The County will have to perform an archaeological survey and records search to comply with CEQA/NEPA. The County requested and received a time extension for the PS&E phase at the June 2012 CTC meeting. Since the CEQA/NEPA document is not yet complete, the County cannot request authorization of the PS&E funds nor complete the design to meet the originally programmed June 2013 construction (CON) allocation deadline. Therefore, the County is requesting an 18-month extension to December 2014 to align the projects PS&E and CON timelines.</p>			
10	Mono County Mono County PPNO: 09-2561 June Lake Streets Rehabilitation project	\$0 \$242 \$60 \$0 \$302	6 Months 12/31/2013 Support
<p>The County of Mono (County) is requesting a six-month extension to the period of allocation for Plan Specification & Estimate (PS&E) and Right of Way (R/W) phases of the June Lake Streets Rehabilitation project. The County has experienced delays in obtaining approval of the CEQA document and water quality permits for the project.</p> <p>The CEQA and water quality permits could not be completed last year due to inclement, winter weather conditions in the Eastern Sierra thereby delaying the request for authorization for PS&E and R/W. The County anticipates completing the required wetlands and water quality studies by the Fall of 2013. The County does not expect this request to delay construction of the project, and therefore requests a six-month extension to December 31, 2013.</p>			
11	City of Fairfield Solano County PPNO: 75-6045K Capitol Corridor Rail Station, Fairfield project, TE	\$0 \$0 \$0 \$400 \$400	12 Months 06/30/2014 Support
<p>The City of Fairfield (City) is requesting a 12-month extension to the period of allocation for construction phase of the Capitol Corridor Rail Station, Fairfield TE project. The City has experienced delays in advancing the project toward construction due to coordination efforts with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR).</p> <p>The City and UPRR are currently working on completing the Construction and Maintenance (C&M) agreement. The UPRR requested the City pursue two separate C&M agreements; one for the train passenger platform and the other for a grade separation at Peabody Road. Both C&M agreements require land transfers and easements. While UPRR is receptive to the C&M agreements, UPRR will not execute the final documents until the final land transfers are recorded. The TE funds require R/W certification prior to receiving the allocation. The City anticipates R/W certification by March 2014 and having the project ready to advertise by June 2014. The City is therefore requesting a 12-month extension to June 30, 2014.</p>			