



September 3, 2020
TAC Agenda Item 7.2
Continued From: New
Action Requested: Approve

NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TAC Agenda Letter

TO: Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Kate Miller, Executive Director
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SUBJECT: Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 6 Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommend the NVTA Board approve the Lifeline Cycle 6 Program of Projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) issued a notice for Letters of Interest for the Lifeline Transportation Program on June 22, 2020. There is \$156,657 in federal transit funds available to public transit operators, community based organizations and non-profits, and other local government agencies for lifeline transportation projects. Lifeline funds address transportation gaps or barriers identified in community-based transportation plans or other local planning efforts in low-income communities.

Two letters of interest were received, one from the City of St. Helena, and one from the City of Calistoga. Both projects are pedestrian projects that will enhance safety and connectivity and meet the criteria of the Lifeline Transportation Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Is there a fiscal impact? No, however NVTA Board approval will make \$156,657 available for programming.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) makes funding available to improve mobility of low-income communities through the Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP). LTP funds are distributed to counties based on a low-income population formula and are administered by each county transit operator. The Napa Valley Transportation Authority

(NVTA) serves as the Transit Operator for Napa County. NVTA issued a notice for all interested parties to submit Letters of Interest for lifeline funding.

The program is intended to fund projects included in community-based transportation plans or other planning efforts, including projects that: 1) Are developed through a collaborative and inclusive planning process; 2) improve transportation choices; 3) address transportation gaps identified in the Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTP) or other local planning efforts; and 4) focus on transportation needs specific to elderly and disabled residents of low income communities.

Eligible Applicants:

Public agencies, county social service agencies, cities and counties, and non-profit organizations are eligible applicants. However, since Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funds are all statutorily restricted to eligible public transit agencies, applicants must partner with NVTA to access the revenues.

Available Funding:

Table 1. Lifeline Fund Sources

Fund Source	Amount		Total
	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	
FTA Section 5307 Funds	\$77,528	\$79,129	\$156,657

Local Matching Fund Requirement:

LTP Cycle 6 requires a minimum match of 20% of the total project cost.

Two exceptions to the 20% requirements:

- 1) FTA Section 5307 operating projects require a 50% match.
- 2) All vehicle purchase projects require a 50% match.

Local match for FTA funds can be federal funds providing they are not Department of Transportation Funds.

Eligible Projects:

The program goal is to improve mobility for low-income communities in Napa County. Eligible Projects under FTA Section 5307 include:

- New and existing transportation and transit services
- Capital and operating projects

Projects will be selected based on:

- 1) Community-identified priority/ local support
- 2) Implementation plan/project readiness
- 3) Ability to provide required match
- 4) Accountability and Reporting
- 5) Cost effectiveness
- 6) Project budget/sustainability

Project Priority is given to projects addressing the four overarching priorities identified in the CBTP:

- Improve Pedestrian Safety – Improve conditions to reduce traffic incidents and increase pedestrian safety
- Mobility – options that expand mobility for low-income, senior and disabled residents
- Transit related – Increase local transit evening frequencies, increase amenities, decrease fares for low-income individuals
- Americans with Disabilities – Increase transit ADA access

Project Delivery Requirements:

For projects receiving FY 2018-19 funds, the project must be completed by August 2023, and August 2024 for FY 2019-20 funds.

Draft Proposed Program

The cities of Calistoga and St. Helena submitted letters of interest for projects. The City of St. Helena is requesting funds for pedestrian crossing and safety improvements along Pope Street. This project is listed in the CBTP as a high priority project. Staff is recommending 60% of the funding, \$94,000, be awarded to this project, which would cover the cost of the project less the 20% local match.

The City of Calistoga requested funds for a pedestrian improvement project, the Riverside Path to cover a shortfall in funding. The path connects downtown Calistoga to parking and facilities along Washington Street. This project is not specifically identified in the CBTP, but it meets the program criteria for pedestrian safety improvement and access in a community of concern. The City of Calistoga has been identified in the CBTP as a community of concern. Staff is recommending the remaining 40% of funding, \$62,657 be awarded to the Riverside Path project.

Table 2, below, summarizes the staff recommended Lifeline Program for the NVTB Board's consideration at its September meeting.

Table 2. Lifeline Cycle 6 Napa Projects

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Description	Lifeline \$	Match \$	Total \$
St. Helena	Pope St. Crossing	Crossing safety improvements on Pope St. such as RFRB	\$94,000	\$18,800	\$112,800
Calistoga	Riverside Path Project	Pathway connection from Washington to downtown Calistoga	\$62,657	\$12,531	\$75,188
			\$156,657		

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None