

TIRCP Common Guidance Themes and Frequently Asked Questions

“Paint the whole picture” – Applicants are advised to address the overall need and benefit of the project in the context of its contribution to the agency’s system. Along with the project’s benefit and need, applicants are advised to address the project’s readiness and reasonableness of the schedule for project implementation as well as the leveraging and coordination of funding from other greenhouse gas reduction programs as well as other private, federal, state, local (including local measures) or regional sources.

Prioritization – An applicant must clearly identify and prioritize phases or project components within each application if available resources do not permit the full project to be funded. Also, an applicant submitting multiple project applications must clearly prioritize its projects.

Scalability - Applicants are advised to submit projects that are scalable. In the event that available program resources expand prior to the completion of the programming cycle, CalSTA may revise upward the funding available for the programming cycle.

Acknowledge Connections to Other Transit Service in the ARB Calculation – If a proposed project involves new or expanded service and the agency collects data on the number of riders that connect to other transit services, applicants are advised to include and add the average trip length of the connecting service to the average trip length of the agency’s service when calculating GHG emission reductions. Including the connecting agencies’ trip distances in the ARB calculation will allow the agency to demonstrate how ridership changes resulting from the project will benefit the agency’s system as well as the local or regional system and, ultimately, further reduce GHG emissions.

Project Study Report (PSR)/Uniform Transit Application (UTA) – Caltrans and CalSTA have decided to make the PSR/UTA requirement optional as part of the application in order to minimize additional work for applicant. However, if the applicant has already prepared a PSR, UTA, or an equivalent document for the project to fulfill a requirement for another funding program, it may include it with its TIRCP application. Please note that the California Transportation Commission may request a UTA at the time of allocation should they determine that additional information is required.

ARB Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Quantification Methodology and Useful Life of an Asset – GHG emissions are tied to the primary asset being funded. The applicant may reference the standards provided in the FTA Grant Management Circular 5010.1D (November 1, 2008).

Application Due Date: The CD/flash drive of the application must be postmarked by April 5, 2016.