



# Grouped Projects Listings

## 2025 Federal Planning Finding #1

**Vaik Renga, PE, SE**

FTIP/ FSTIP Coordinator

Office of Federal Programming and Data Management

Caltrans Division of Financial Programming



# Introduction

- California's Current Challenges
- Caltrans' Current Guidance
- Federal Recommendations

## Programming Grouped Project Listings in Air Quality Non-Attainment or Maintenance Areas

### Background:

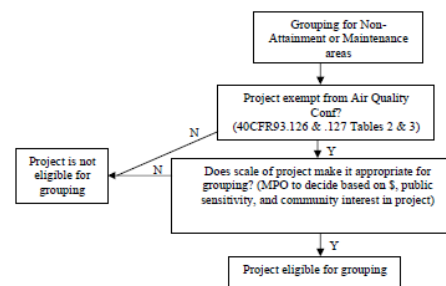
Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 450.216 (j) allows projects that are not considered to be of appropriate scale for individual identification in the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) to be grouped by function, work type or geographic region using appropriate classifications using the applicable classifications under 23 CFR 771.117(c) and (d) and/or 40 CFR part 93.

MPOs may find grouping projects to offer some advantages and flexibility when amending projects in the FTIP/FSTIP. New projects can be added to an existing grouped project listing through administrative modifications in accordance with the Amendment and Administrative Modification Guidelines. For non-Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded projects, the detailed project lists may be revised without the need for amendments or administrative modifications if the revisions do not result in changes to the total grouped project costs. However, MPOs must update the detailed project lists to reflect the revision, and furnish them to the respective FTIP/FSTIP Coordinators at Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FTA along with a cover letter.

These guidelines are for programming grouped project listings for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the rural-nonMPO areas that are classified as either air quality non-attainment or maintenance. The grouped project listings must be consistent with the "Exempt Project" classification contained in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Transportation Conformity Regulation (40CFR part 93). It is the MPO's responsibility to determine the eligibility of projects to be included in grouped project listings. If verification/confirmation is needed, an MPO shall consult with their planning coordinators from FHWA and Caltrans Federal Programming Office to confirm their findings.

### Programming Guidelines:

1. Use the flow chart below to determine if a project is eligible for grouping. Projects ineligible for grouping must be programmed individually in the FTIP/FSTIP.



# California's current Challenges

Inconsistencies with federal requirements relating to grouped project listings:

- In a maintenance and nonattainment area, regionally significant projects and projects not exempt from conformity were included in a grouped project listing.
- Projects in the planning phase are grouped together with projects in the construction phase.
- Regionally significant projects and projects not exempt from air quality conformity within nonattainment or maintenance areas will need to be ungrouped and listed individually in the FSTIP. Grouping projects inappropriately presents a risk for all projects within the group.

# Caltrans Current Guidance

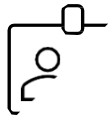
- Caltrans provides updated FSTIP Development Guidance: Programming Grouped Project Listings in Air Quality Non-Attainment or Maintenance Areas (Pre-approved list of grouped project listings and detailed project listings format)
- Caltrans reviews and provides guidance on MPOs FTIP Adoption/Amendments and project specific inquiries for alignment with federal regulations
- MPOs should determine if projects are eligible for inclusion in the grouped project listings

# Federal Recommendations

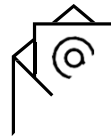
- Create numerous grouped listings, where each grouped listing is tailored.
- Ensure regionally significant projects and projects not exempt for air quality conformity are appropriately identified in the FSTIP.
- Ensure project classifications are consistent with “exempt project” classifications for all non-attainment and maintenance areas.



# Questions



Vaik Renga



[Vaikunthan.Renganathan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Vaikunthan.Renganathan@dot.ca.gov)



[Division of Financial Programming Website](#)