Potential Solutions to Funding Obstacles for Sustainable Streets

Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association

Regional Roundtable
March 28, 2017
Outline

- Integration is key
- Modify eligibility criteria
- Coordinate match requirements
- Coordinate regarding funding cycles
- Advertise maximum grant periods
- Broaden scoring criteria
- Coordinate on grant administration
Integration is Key

- Siloed approach to funding is fundamental obstacle
- Can more grants fund both active transportation AND green infrastructure?
- If not, there are other integrated approaches
Modify Eligibility Criteria - Programmatic

- **Obstacle** - Transportation grants don’t allow green infrastructure

- **Solution** - Modify eligibility criteria
  - Prioritize or provide points for green infrastructure
  - Consider integrating funding sources for single distribution
Modify Eligibility Criteria - Programmatic

- **Obstacle** - Urban greening grants don’t allow transportation facilities

- **Solution** - Modify eligibility criteria
  - Prioritize or provide points for active transportation
  - Consider integrating funding sources for single distribution
Modify Eligibility Criteria - Programmatic

- **Obstacle** - One grant may not cover all project phases

- **Solution** - Modify eligibility criteria
  - Allow flexibility in grants for all necessary activities and complex projects
Modify Eligibility Criteria - Legislative

- **Obstacle** - Transportation grants don’t allow green infrastructure; urban greening grants don’t allow transportation facilities

- **Solution** - Modify eligibility criteria
  - Look at what is needed for legislative fixes
Coordinate Match Requirements – Programmatic

- **Obstacle** - Restrictions on source of matching funds (federal, state) or project elements funded by the match

- **Solution** - Coordinate match requirements among funding agencies
  - Agencies jointly establish match
  - Resource agencies establish standard local match similar to transportation grants
Coordinate Match Requirements – Legislative

- **Obstacle** - Restrictions on source of matching funds (federal, state) or project elements funded by the match

- **Solution** - Coordinate match requirements among funding agencies
  - Look at what is needed for legislative fixes
Coordinate Regarding Funding Cycles

- **Obstacle** - Funding cycles are not coordinated

- **Solution** - Coordinate regarding funding cycles
  - Database of grants and upcoming solicitations, including funding source, match requirements, etc.
  - Coordinate among agencies to time the release of solicitations
Advertise Maximum Grant Periods

- **Obstacle** - Ability to obtain grant extensions not described in solicitations

- **Solution** - Advertise maximum grant periods
  - Include in the solicitation a description of extensions that may be available
Broaden Scoring Criteria

- **Obstacle** - Transportation grants look at the most cost-effective solution to provide the transportation benefit

- **Solution** - Broaden scoring criteria
  Prioritize green infrastructure, allowing alternative project designs that provide more benefits than just transportation
Coordinate on Grant Application Process

- **Obstacle** - Cost of resources to apply for multiple, often complex grants

- **Solution** - Coordinate on grant application process
  - Standardization of urban greening solicitations to the extent possible
  - Consider integrating funding across agencies and sectors – allowing for one application
Coordinate Joint Reporting

- Obstacle - Separate record-keeping and reporting for each grant

- Solution - Coordinate joint reporting
  - Funding agencies would coordinate to allow joint reporting
# Roundtable Discussion

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