



Call for Projects for the Solano Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program

The Solano Transportation Authority is now accepting grant applications for transportation projects identified from Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs) or Participatory Budgeting (PB) processes. The application deadline is June 30, 2026.

Background:

The Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program was recently established by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to support implementation of adopted CBTPs, building on prior investments in CBTP planning in Equity Priority Communities (EPCs). The CARE Program is designed to fund transportation projects identified through CBTPs or Participatory Budgeting processes, supporting their progression from planning through implementation and delivery.

CBTPs are community driven plans that are developed with a focus on engaging residents of equity communities and community-based organizations that serve them, with the goal of identifying needs and recommending mobility improvements.

PB is a community-centered process that allows residents to directly influence how public funds are spent by aligning community-identified needs and priorities with investment decisions. PB is typically a multi-step process guided by a steering committee made up of community representatives who help shape and oversee the work. Residents are involved in developing project ideas and voting on priorities, with engagement taking place in a variety of ways depending on the community. Through this collective decision-making, the projects that receive the most support are ultimately selected for implementation by the local jurisdiction.

The STA is administering this Call for Projects, in partnership with MTC, to program Solano CARE Cycle 1 funding. This grant program is part of a Coordinated Call for Projects with the One Bay Area Cycle (OBAG) 4, Transportation Funds for Clean Air (TFCA), and Transportation Development Act Funds Article 3 (TDA-3).

Eligible Applicants:

The seven Solano cities, unincorporated County of Solano, federally recognized Tribal governments, and the STA. Non-profit organizations are only eligible if they partner with an eligible recipient (e.g., CTA, transit operator) that is willing to serve as the recipient of the funds.

Total Funding Available:

Approximately \$2,088,000 is anticipated to be available for eligible transportation projects in Solano County through the CARE Program.

There are two categories for which project sponsor can apply, which include the following:

- 1) CBTP Project Development Technical Assistance (CBTP TA):
 - a. Funding Available: \$1,044,000 (+/- \$313,000)
 - b. Eligible Activities: Project Development for Capital Projects – including early to final design stages, alternatives analysis or public outreach
 - c. Minimum Grant Size: \$250,000
 - d. Local Match Requirement: None

- 2) Participatory Budgeting and Implementation (PBI):
 - a. Funding Available: \$1,044,000 (+/- \$313,000)
 - b. Eligible Activities: CON phase for Capital Projects; up to \$175,000 for CBTP Planning
 - c. Minimum Grant Size: \$50,000
 - d. Local Match Requirement: None

**Up to 30% of the total funding available between CBTP TA and PBI Implementation may be flexed between categories, representing approximately +/-313,200 in flexible funding.

Between the two grant categories, project proposals may include bundled projects in order to meet the minimum grant size thresholds. For example, bus stop improvements at multiple locations within a community.

A project sponsor may also apply for both CBTP TA and PBI for a single project, provided the application has a clear funding plan demonstrating the project can be delivered within the required timeframe and in alignment with programming deadlines.

Please note that this program cannot fund any post-award cost increases. Project sponsors are expected to deliver the approved project scope within the awarded funding amount.

Eligible Capital Projects:

Bus stop improvements, active transportation, art and cultural placemaking projects, or other enhancements to improve transportation access for low income residents and people with disabilities.

Project Eligibility Requirements:

Consistent with the intent of CBTPs and Participatory Budgeting Processes, the CARE Program prioritizes projects that benefit equity communities and demonstrate strong community support. Therefore, the following project eligibility requirements for proposed capital projects apply:

CBTP or Participatory Budgeting Process

Eligible projects must originate from a CBTP or Participatory Budgeting process. Solano jurisdictions that have a completed CBTP include the cities of Fairfield, Vacaville, Vallejo, Rio Vista and Suisun City. Only the City of Vallejo has an active Participatory Budgeting process.

Community Support Documentation Requirements

Projects must reflect recent and meaningful community engagement to ensure alignment with current community priorities. Applicants are required to submit documentation demonstrating this engagement, as outlined in Attachment B.

Projects that do not meet the minimum documentation requirements will be deemed ineligible.

Beyond these minimum requirements, additional consideration will be given to projects that include additional support letters and other documentation demonstrating broad community endorsement. A list of STA Advisory Committee members and Solano County-based Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to support outreach efforts can be found [here](#). Support letter templates can be found on the [Solano CARE Program webpage](#).

Benefit to Equity Communities

Projects must be located within or serve an equity community, as defined by one or more of the following: Solano Equity Framework (Tier 1 & 2), MTC's Equity Priority Communities Designation or the State's CalEnviroScreen 4.0.

Maps of these equity designations are provided in the [Solano CARE Program webpage](#)

Inclusion in STA Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Projects must be identified in the 2026 Solano Comprehensive Transportation Plan project list to be eligible.

The STA is currently in the process of updating the CTP and continues to accept project submissions. The deadline for CTP inclusion is May 18, 2026. Please contact Dulce Jimenez from STA at djimenez@sta.ca.gov if you are interested in submitting a project or have any further questions about this process.

STA Board Workshop for CARE and One Bay Area Cycle (OBAG) 4:

As part of the CARE and OBAG 4 process, STA is hosting a Board Workshop at the STA Board Chambers on July 10, 2026. Project sponsors will have the opportunity to present

their project proposals to the STA Board, STA Advisory Committee Members, invited Community Based Organization (CBO) representatives, and members of the public.

Community input will also be collected during this workshop. STA Advisory Committee Members, CBO representatives, and the public will be invited to express their support for priority project(s). These comments will be considered as part of the CARE Community Support evaluation criteria.

How to Submit an Application:

Applicants must submit a complete application package including:

- **Solano CARE Program Application Form**
- **Complete Streets Checklist** (*for infrastructure projects seeking \$250,000 or more in CARE Funds*) – please see the *Complete Streets User Guide* for more information on how to complete this checklist through the new MTC Complete Streets Checklist Online Portal
- **Supplemental Documentation Requirements** as required

*All of the above referenced documents can be found in the [Solano CARE Program webpage](#)

Completed applications and other required materials are due no later than **Tuesday, June 30th at 5:00 PM** and can be submitted via email to:

Kathrina Gregana
Associate Planner
kgregana@sta.ca.gov

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to consult STA staff in advance to confirm project eligibility.

Project Evaluation Criteria:

The STA will evaluate submitted proposals based on the Solano CARE Program Evaluation Criteria to ensure compliance with MTC's CARE Program Guidelines and to prioritize project and programs for submission to MTC. This criteria can be found in the [Solano CARE Program webpage](#)

Projects demonstrating strong alignment with the goals and criteria categories in the evaluation criteria and show that the project can be implemented within the CARE program period will be recommended for selection.

Solano CARE Program Cycle 1 Call for Projects Schedule:

- **Call for Projects Release** - May 13, 2026
- **Deadline for Applications** - June 30, 2026
- **STA Board Workshop** – July 10, 2026
- **Joint BAC/PAC Meeting** - July 16, 2026 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

- **Application Evaluation** - July through August
- **Draft Project Recommendations to the STA TAC** - August 26, 2026
- **Draft Project Recommendations to the STA Board** - September 9, 2026
- **STA's Submission of CARE Project Nominations to MTC** - October 2026
- **Project Selection by MTC** – Early 2027
- **Obligation/Expenditure Deadline** – September 30, 2031

Resources:

Resources for the Solano CARE Program Call for Projects, including a link to the application, can be accessed from the STA's website at: <https://sta.ca.gov/operations/funding/>

Questions:

If you have any questions regarding this Call for Projects, please contact Kathrina Gregana, Associate Planner at (707) 399-3230 or through email kgregana@sta.ca.gov.