

COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR MEASURE P
SAN BENITO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND
INVESTMENT PLAN

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- I. IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SAN BENITO COUNTY BY SUPPLEMENTING EXISTING FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION WITH A NEW LOCAL FUNDING SOURCE.
 - a. Generate new, locally controlled funding for high priority transportation projects in San Benito County
 - b. Enhance the ability of the Council of San Benito County Governments (“Council of Governments”), the County of San Benito, the City of Hollister and the City of San Juan Bautista to secure additional State and Federal funding for transportation projects in San Benito County by offering matching local funds.
 - c. Supplement existing local fund sources to enhance the Council of Governments’ and County’s ability to deliver high priority transportation projects in San Benito County

- II. PROVIDE FOR EQUITY IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF MEASURE A REVENUES.
 - a. Return funds to the Unincorporated County, City of Hollister, and City of San Juan Bautista based on an equitable formula distribution of funds
 - b. Adopt Improvement Plan proposals which address the unique needs of each of these areas of the County.
 - c. Provide for a reasonable balance between highway, maintenance, local street and road improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transit improvements for youth, seniors, students, and people with disabilities.

- III. PROVIDE FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRAM
 - a. Provide for cost-effective, local administration of the program through the existing Council of San Benito County Governments, which previously administered local Measure A funding.
 - b. Delegate appropriate administrative responsibility to cities, the County, and other local agencies for local programs.

- IV. PROVIDE FOR TAXPAYER SAFEGUARDS AND OVERSIGHT
 - a. Ensure annual independent audits
 - b. Establish a Citizen’s Oversight Committee

INTRODUCTION:

This TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND INVESTMENT PLAN, which shall also act as the Measure P Expenditure Plan, was prepared by the Council of San Benito County Governments for the proposed one half of one percent (0.5%) local transactions and use tax for transportation to be collected for the next 30 years if approved by the voters on June 7, 2016. This is proposed by the Council of Governments as a means to fill the funding shortfall to implement needed highway, local street and road maintenance, local road improvements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements and transit improvements.

EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR MEASURE P PROJECTS:

The Council of Governments shall use Measure P Revenues for purposes of funding the following projects:

1. Highway 25 Improvements (50% or \$120 Million)

The Council of Governments shall allocate 50% of Measure P Revenues to fund improvements to safety and traffic flow on State Route 25 between San Felipe Road and Santa Clara County. These improvements may be accomplished in several phases and may include intersection improvements, construction of new travel lanes, and other improvements that will be further identified by the Council of Governments in partnership with the State.

2. Local Road Improvements (20% or \$48 Million)

The Council of Governments shall allocate 20% of Measure P Revenues to certain local road projects in San Benito County, the City of Hollister and the City of San Juan Bautista. These projects may include but are not limited to:

- City of Hollister West Gateway Improvement Project
- Interim Fairview Road improvements, prior to a full widening project, to address concerns about speeding and traffic in the area
- City of Hollister Nash/Tres Pinos/Sunnyslope/McCray Street Complete Streets Implementation
- Realignment of Anzar Road, Aromitas & Carr Road
- State Route 156 & the Alameda/Monterey Road Improvements
- Regional transit connections and improved transit services for youth, seniors, and the disabled
- Safe Routes to School Improvements to roadways near schools to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and improve traffic flow for motorists
- Other projects identified by the Council of Governments to improve safety and traffic flow on local roads which meet the objectives identified in this Plan.

3. Local Street and Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation (30% or \$72 Million)

The Council of Governments shall allocate 30% of Measure P Revenues to local street and roadway maintenance and rehabilitation. The revenues shall be allocated to local jurisdictions based on the following formula:

- County of San Benito: 48%
- City of Hollister: 48%
- City of San Juan Bautista: 4%

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS AND TAXPAYER SAFEGUARDS:

1. Funds will be administered by the Council of San Benito County Governments (Council of Governments)

The revenue raised by Measure P for the purposes described in this Plan will be administered by the Council of Governments and an account shall be created to hold all funds collected pursuant to the Measure. The Council of San Benito County Governments is a Joint Powers Authority created in 1973 for the purpose of forming consensus on regional issues facing San Benito County.

In order to ensure accountability, transparency and public oversight of all funds collected and allocated under this Measure and to comply with state law, all of the following shall apply:

- a. The Council of Governments will commission an independent annual audit of its revenue and expenditures and will also prepare a publicly available annual report on past and upcoming activities and publish an annual financial statement.
- b. Prior to expenditure of any funds collected pursuant to the Measure, the Council of Governments Board shall convene an Expenditure Plan Oversight Committee to provide oversight. The Committee will consist of seven members. Two members recommended by the County Board of Supervisors, two members recommended by the City of Hollister and one recommended by the City of San Juan Bautista. One at large director will be recommended by the business community and one will represent organized labor. The Expenditure Plan Oversight Committee will fairly represent the geographical, social, cultural, and economic diversity of the Council of Governments' jurisdiction to ensure maximum benefit for transportation users.
- c. Members of the Expenditure Plan Oversight Committee shall be appointed by the Council of Governments Board of Directors and shall be residents within the Council of Governments' jurisdiction who are neither elected officials of any government, nor employees from any agency or organization that either oversees or benefits from the proceeds of the sales tax.

- d. Expenditure Plan Oversight Committee meetings will be announced in advance and will be open to the public. The Expenditure Plan Oversight Committee shall meet at least once but no more than four times per year.

The responsibilities of this Committee include:

- Advising the Council of Governments Board.
 - Making recommendations regarding annual expenditure priorities.
 - Reviewing Plan expenditures on an annual basis to ensure they conform to the Plan.
 - Reviewing the annual audit and report prepared by an independent auditor, describing how funds were spent.
 - Produce a publicly available Annual Report of Oversight Activities.
- e. The Oversight Committee members will serve staggered two year terms and can be reappointed.
 - f. All actions, including decisions about selecting projects for funding, will be made by the Council of Governments Board in public meetings, subject to the Brown Act and closed session requirements, with proper advanced notice and with meeting materials available in advance to the public.

2. Additional Allocation Criteria and Community Benefits

The Council of Governments shall ensure that the revenue generated by Measure P is spent in the most efficient and effective manner possible, consistent with serving the public interest and in accordance with existing law and this Plan.

- a. The Council of Governments shall give priority to projects within its jurisdiction that meet multiple objectives of the Council of Governments Expenditure Plan document and including one or more of the following objectives :
 - Provide for geographic distribution of projects across the Council of Governments' jurisdiction.
 - Increase impact by leveraging state and federal resources as well as public/private partnerships.
 - Benefit the economy and sustainability of the region by investing in infrastructure and local quality of life.
- b. The Council of Governments Governing Board shall conduct one or more public meetings annually to gain public input on selection of project grants to expend revenues generated by the Measure.
- c. The Council of Governments may accumulate revenue over multiple years so that sufficient funding is available for larger and long-term projects. All interest income shall be used for the purposes identified in this Plan. The Council of Governments can bond against these funds as the laws allow.

- d. Costs of performing or contracting for project-related work shall be paid from the revenues of the measure allocated to the appropriate purpose and project.
- e. An annual independent audit shall be conducted to assure that the revenues expended by the Council of Governments under this section are necessary and reasonable in carrying out its responsibilities under this Expenditure Plan/Ordinance.
- f. Sales tax proceeds are intended to augment annual support for the Council of Governments and do not substitute for individual city or County maintenance obligations. Monies from this program may not go to a city's or the County's "General Fund".
- g. Revenues provided from the sales tax shall not be used to replace private developer or foundation funding which has been or will be committed for any project.
- h. Examples of similar projects eligible for funding under this Measure may be found at www.sanbenitocog.org

3. CEQA Compliance

The approval of this Expenditure Plan does not commit the Council of Governments to funding or approving any specific Project or activity listed herein. Prior to approving or authorizing funding for any specific project or activity identified in this Expenditure Plan, the Council of Governments shall comply with all applicable provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

4. Amendments

Expenditure Plan Amendments. The Council of Governments may annually review and propose amendments to the Expenditure Plan to provide for the use of additional Federal, State and local funds, to account for unexpected revenues, or to take into consideration unforeseen circumstances.

The Expenditure Plan for Measure P funds may only be amended, if required, by the following process set forth in Section 180207 of the Public Utilities Code: (1) Initiation of amendments by the Council of Governments reciting findings of necessity; (2) Provision of notice and a copy of the amendments provided to the Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista; (3) The proposed amendments shall become effective 45 days after notice is given.