

February 20, 2026

Flexible Fleets Pilot Grant Program Call for Projects

Overview

Flexible Fleets comprise various modes of on-demand shared mobility services, typically requested or reserved through a smartphone application or call center. In 2023, the SANDAG Board of Directors authorized \$5 million in federal funding to develop and implement a grant program to pilot Flexible Fleets projects in the region.

Key Considerations

The Flexible Fleets Pilot Grant Program is intended to fund pilot projects that expand shared mobility services and advance the goals of the Regional Plan. The Program will fund projects that can serve as models for the region and demonstrate the ability to sustain operations after the grant expires.

At the [June 20, 2025](#) Transportation Committee meeting (Item 5), staff was asked to verify if existing Flexible Fleet pilot projects and services could be funded through this grant program. Based on information provided by the federal funding agencies, staff made several revisions to the Call for projects (Attachment 1). New pilots were defined by the funding agencies as services that are not currently operating or have not operated in the past. Enhanced pilots are the continuation and modification of a service that is currently operating or has operated in the past. The enhanced pilot must not have received prior U.S. Department of Transportation funding. Modifications to established/existing pilot operations must include new geographic limits or introduce new service models, technologies, or partners to be eligible. The funding also requires that all operations be completed and expenses incurred by December 31, 2029. A summary of all feedback received on the call for projects and revisions made to the call for projects is provided as Attachment 4. Updated scoring rubric is provided as Attachment 2 and updated performance metrics are provided as Attachment 3.

Eligible applicants include federal, state, and local governmental agencies, tribal governments, transit operators, and military institutions. Eligible costs will include service operations provided by the applicant or through a contracted service. Applicants must provide 11.47% of the total project cost in matching funds, which may include in-kind staff time.

Next Steps

If recommended by the Transportation Committee, staff will bring the final Call for Projects to the Board for approval on February 27, 2026, and release the Call for Projects shortly after. The application period will be open for 90 days. Applications will be reviewed by an evaluation panel with experience in deploying and operating transportation services. The funding recommendations are expected to be brought to the Transportation Committee and Board of Directors in fall 2026. Projects would begin in late 2026. SANDAG will continue to seek sustainable funding for ongoing Flexible Fleet service operations.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning

- Attachments:
1. Final Flexible Fleets Pilot Grant Program Call for Projects
 2. Final Flexible Fleets Pilot Grant Program Scoring Rubric
 3. Final Flexible Fleets Pilot Grant Program Performance Metrics
 4. Summary of FFGP Feedback and Revisions

Action: Recommend

The Transportation Committee is asked to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the release of the Flexible Fleets Pilot Grant Program Call for Projects.

Fiscal Impact:

Up to \$4.5 million will be made available through the Call for Projects through Overall Work Program No. 3501000: Flexible Fleet Pilots.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

Pending Board approval, staff anticipates releasing the Call for Projects in spring 2026.