

September 10, 2025

TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program: Cycle 6 Funding Recommendations

Overview

The Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) is a grant program funded through the [TransNet Extension Ordinance and Expenditure Plan](#) that encourages the development of projects focused on smart growth principles that foster compact, transit-accessible, pedestrian-friendly, and environmentally responsible communities. By providing financial incentives, the SGIP aims to stimulate sustainable development, reduce traffic congestion, and improve transit options within the San Diego region.

The SGIP has completed five funding cycles, awarding over \$59 million to support transportation-related infrastructure and planning projects across the San Diego region. On [December 13, 2024](#), the SANDAG Board of Directors approved the evaluation criteria and the release of a sixth SGIP cycle. This report outlines the evaluation process for SGIP Cycle 6 applications and includes projects recommended for funding.

Key Considerations

Attachment 1 provides an overview of the SGIP Cycle 6 call for projects, including the evaluation process and the projects recommended for funding. Thirty-five projects are recommended for award, including 13 Capital projects (12 fully funded and one partially funded), 15 Planning projects, and 7 Climate Action Planning projects. Attachments 2-4 provide the detailed results of the evaluation process.

Staff is requesting that ITOC review one of the recommended Planning projects, the City of Escondido's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to make a recommendation to the Board regarding eligibility under the TransNet Extension Ordinance. Additional details on this project are included in Attachment 1.

Next Steps

This item will be presented at the Regional Planning Committee on September 22, 2025; the Transportation Committee meeting on October 6, 2025; and the Board on October 24, 2025. The awarded projects will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, and staff will begin executing grant agreements in early 2026.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning

Attachments: 1. Discussion Memo
2. Capital Project Evaluation Workbook
3. Planning Project Evaluation Workbook
4. Climate Action Planning Project Evaluation Workbook

Action: **Recommend**

The ITOC is asked to review the proposed TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program projects recommended for funding to ensure consistency with the TransNet Ordinance and consider a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval.

Fiscal Impact:

Approximately \$45 million of TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program (SGIP) funds will be awarded to local jurisdictions for capital, planning and climate action planning projects.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

Pending Board of Directors approval in October 2025, SGIP grantees will be issued a Notice to Proceed in early 2026. All project funding must be expended 36-42 months after the Notice to Proceed is issued.