

# Santa Clara County Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS) FACTSHEET

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSES

The Vehicle Emissions Reductions Based at Schools (VERBS) Program is Santa Clara County's locally programmed portion of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) One Bay Area Safe Routes to School program.

VERBS is focused on reducing greenhouse gases by promoting walking, biking, transit, and carpooling to school, targeting grades K-12. The program builds on and expands the existing Safe Routes to School Program efforts and successes within the Santa Clara County.

VERBS is intended to:

- (1) facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of a project that will reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools; and
- (2) reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities to school children; and
- (3) ensure that bicycling and walking to school is a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.

## WHO CAN APPLY, AND HOW FUNDS ARE AWARDED?

VERBS is funded with Federal Highways Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Only VTA, Caltrain, and the Public Works departments of the County of Santa Clara, and the cities and towns located in Santa Clara County are eligible to apply. Nonprofit organizations, Native American Tribes, school districts, public health departments and other City/County departments, must partner with one of these eligible agencies.

## HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Approximately \$1.3 million in CMAQ funds are available for Santa Clara County over the following 5 fiscal years (FY2018-FY2022). Project sponsors may request a minimum of \$500,000 and a maximum of \$1,000,000 per project. VTA may partially fund a request.

## LOCAL MATCH

Local match is defined as the dollars used to match the requested grant amount. The match must consist of a minimum of 11.47% in cash. An agency may contribute additional cash or in-kind support, defined as activities or materials which would have been eligible, prior to project development, or ineligible but integral to the project.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects must meet all Federal CMAQ requirements. All CMAQ-funded projects need to complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and meet basic eligibility requirements for

funding under titles 23 and 49 of the United States Code. The separate “Eligibility Matrix” provides details.

### **PROJECT DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS**

Projects need to meet MTC Project Delivery requirements as stated in MTC Resolution No. 3606. ([http://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/MTC\\_Res\\_3606.pdf](http://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/MTC_Res_3606.pdf))

Per MTC staff, infrastructure funds will be available for programming STP/CMAQ projects in years FY20/21.

### **PROJECT REPORTING**

Minimum requirement: Report to VTA the pre-construction and post-construction bicycle and pedestrian counts one year after completion of project. Provide before and after images of the project site.