

CRRSAA Program Frequently Asked Questions:

PROJECT RELATED

1. Can CRRSAA-HIP be used on HSIP, BRIDGE, ATP, etc.? How about supplanting or replacing funds?
[CRRSAA Funds can be used to augment, supplant, or replace funds on existing projects from various programs. The original programmed project elements must be eligible under the STBGP allowances for CRRSAA funds to be used.](#)
2. Can the funds be used to cover "Revenue Losses" from sales/gas tax?
 - a. And how would this activity be programmed in the FTIP and reimbursed?
 - b. And is backup documentation required?
"Revenue losses do not include reduced collection of Federal taxes and fees, such as Federal motor fuel taxes", FHWA CRRSAA Guidance.
3. Can the funds be used to hire personnel, and does it need to be linked to a project?
[The CRRSAA Program allows funds to be utilized for personnel salaries, \(including those employees who have been placed on administrative leave\) or contractors.](#)
4. How are the funds programmed for Personnel or Operations and Maintenance purposes?
[As with any CRRSAA Program project, the projects must be included in the project listing to be programmed/approved by the CTC. Projects for personnel, operations or maintenance must be listed individually on the project listing.](#)
5. Does preventive and routine maintenance, and operations include road re-surfacing work?
[Re-surfacing roadways is considered maintenance as the practice extends the life of the roadway structure.](#)
6. Can the funds be used to resurface local or residential streets when they're not on a Federal-aid highway system? Per FHWA guidance for CRRSAA HIP under 'Special Authority', preventive maintenance can be applied to non-Federal-aid highways and routine maintenance on any public road.
[Yes, CRRSAA Program funds can be utilized on non-federal-aid roadways \(any public road\).](#)
7. Can CRRSAA funds be used to purchase construction equipment for road maintenance and street repairs.
[Revenue loss affects many procurement activities including equipment purchases. CRRSAA funds can be used for this purpose.](#)

8. Would replacing street name signs on citywide/residential streets be eligible under maintenance?
Sign replacement is allowed and is considered maintenance, particularly when the signs' retro-reflectivity diminished (reaches its service life).
9. Can CRRSAA Program funds be used for engineering studies, such as roadway pavement condition studies, traffic signal inventory studies, and traffic count studies.
CRRSAA Funds can be utilized for operational needs and revenue loss. If revenue loss and lack of personnel has prevented completion of these activities, then they would be eligible.
10. Can CRRSAA fund traffic signal installation at an intersection to 1) improve pedestrian safety of school-age children, and 2) enhance traffic safety of left-turners.
Infrastructure projects are eligible with CRRSAA Funding. In general, if they are eligible for STBGP funds then they are eligible for CRRSAA funding.
11. Can CRRSAA funds be used to purchase transit CNG buses to replace existing fleet.
US Code, Chapter 53 of Title 49 which STBGP and CRRSAA point to, allows for buses to be purchased.
12. Can CRRSAA funds the removal/replacement of bus shelters along a major arterial.
Yes, CRRSAA funds may be used for these elements.
13. Do agencies have to follow Buy America requirements for CRRSAA HIP funds?
Yes, specific requirements that apply to all HIP-CRRSAA apportioned funds include Buy America (23 U.S.C. 313).
14. Can CRRSAA funds be used for ferry service operations?
 - a. What if the operations are contracted out?
Federal guidelines allow for ferry service operations:
C. Public Tolling Agencies and Ferry Systems that Provide a Public Transportation Benefit: A State may transfer HIP-CRRSAA funds to:
 - State, multi-State, international, or local public tolling agencies that own or operate a tolled facility that is a public road, bridge, or tunnel; or
 - a ferry system that provides a public transportation benefit. Such public tolling agency or ferry system must have been in operation within their State in FY 2020. Funds transferred in this manner may be used to cover costs related to operations, personnel, including salaries of employees (including those employees who have been placed on administrative leave) or contractors, debt service payments, availability payments, and coverage for other revenue losses of a tolled facility or ferry system.

The Ferry operations are being handled by a contractor (private operator), therefore the funds should cover this expense. All other program requirements must be met.

APPORTIONMENTS

- 1) For the 200,000K+ UZA CRRSAA funds, does the RTPA/MPO have to pay attention to the UZA or will Caltrans local assistance assign the UZA codes upon obligation?
 - a. Can we use the 200,000K+ UZA CRRSAA funds anywhere within the MPO boundary, like we can with STBGP funds, or must we use the funds within the specific UZA?

RTPA/MPOs are apportioned funding based on typical STBGP/CMAQ processes. A list of all apportionment funds is shown in the Sub-Appportionment Distribution list. RTPA/MPOs must ensure that apportioned funds are obligated by the deadline. To facilitate timely usage of the CRRSAA funds, the availability of projects, and balancing regional needs, the RTPA/MPOs have flexibility in their usage within their boundaries.

STATE EXCHANGE / STATE ONLY FUNDED

15. Is the programming based on State FY for CTC and the Federal FY for FTIP?
CRRSAA Funds are federal funds and follow federal fiscal years. The FTIP must reflect the FFY that best coincides with the State FY.
16. For smaller counties that are allowed to exchange the fed funds for state cash – would they still need to be in the FTIP? I also understood from the FHWA guidance that being in the FTIP wasn't required for maintenance, etc.
CRRSAA Projects with 100% SOF do not need to appear on the FTIP.
17. Can small areas under 200K exchange funds for state cash at the beginning like RSTP exchange and distribute to local agencies, or must there be a call for projects by the MP and then the local agency can request an exchange?
A call for projects is not required. Agencies in small urban or rural areas may request their projects receive State funds. Agencies must submit a listing of all projects requesting SOF prior to June 2022. This will allow the State to plan for and fully utilize the Federal CRRSAA funding being exchanged. Once the projects have been presented to the Commission, allocation requests can occur.
18. Is there something that spells out what types of projects otherwise eligible for fed CRRSAA \$ would be ineligible under Article 19 if we exchange the funds?
There is no listing that spells out the project types eligibility between CRRSAA and Article 19. However, the link below directs you to Article 19. An excerpt has been included for your convenience.

Article 19 can be found here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=CONS&article=XIX

Revenues from taxes imposed by the State on motor vehicle fuels for use in motor vehicles upon public streets and highways, over and above the costs of collection and any refunds authorized by law, shall be deposited into the Highway Users Tax Account (Section 2100 of the Streets and Highways Code) or its successor, which is hereby declared to be a trust fund, and shall be allocated monthly in accordance with Section 4, and shall be used solely for the following purposes:

- (a) The research, planning, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of public streets and highways (and their related public facilities for nonmotorized traffic), including the mitigation of their environmental effects, the payment for property taken or damaged for such purposes, and the administrative costs necessarily incurred in the foregoing purposes.*
- (b) The research, planning, construction, and improvement of exclusive public mass transit guideways (and their related fixed facilities), including the mitigation of their environmental effects, the payment for property taken or damaged for such purposes, the administrative costs necessarily incurred in the foregoing purposes, and the maintenance of the structures and the immediate right-of-way for the public mass transit guideways, but excluding the maintenance and operating costs for mass transit power systems and mass transit passenger facilities, vehicles, equipment, and services.*

19. SOF under Article 19 would not be eligible for transit-related projects?

Article 19 allows for the maintenance of the structure and immediate right-of-way for public mass transit guideways but excludes maintenance and operation of power systems and passenger facilities, vehicles, equipment, and services.

20. If the Regions are eligible for SOF, then do the funds/projects need to be programmed in the FTIP/FSTIP?'

If CRRSAA projects are 100% State Only Funded, then they do not have to appear in the FTIP/FSTIP.

21. Can you confirm if the ePPR is required for both SOF projects and federally funded projects?

Electronic PPRs are required for all CRRSAA projects regardless of funding type.

22. Is there a specific form needed to request SOF?

State Only Funding needs to be requested in the initial project listing table.

23. Is there a cap amount on requesting SOF funds? Can the full apportionment be converted?

Agencies in areas with population less than 200k can request their full apportionment be granted as State Only Funds. Agencies in urbanized areas greater than 200k may be granted SOF on a project by project basis.

TRANSIT RELATED

24. I did not see any reference to FTA transfers in the attached documentation. Are transfers of the CRRSAA-STBGP funds to FTA allowed, and if so, will it follow the standard FTA transfer process, or are there other requirements associated with transferring the CRRSAA funds? All indications are that the process would be the same as for other funds.
FHWA Guidance allows for those projects more suitably administered by another Federal agency (including flex funding transfers to the Federal Transit Administration) to be transferred. It further states that they may be transferred to public tolling agencies or a ferry system that provides a public transportation benefit.
25. If our region shares the allocation among the local jurisdictions, presumably it would be OK to have one of the larger jurisdictions use all the CRRSAA funds, and then reimburse the other jurisdictions with something like RSTP exchange funds or something similar?
To facilitate timely usage of the CRRSAA funds, the availability of projects, and balancing regional needs, the RTPA/MPOs have flexibility in their usage within their boundaries.
26. The guidance states that the funds cannot be used for bus, rail, or other transit operations. However, the guidance also states that operations, preventive and routine maintenance are eligible. What is the difference between these "Operations" categories?
Operations, preventive and routine maintenance for public streets and highways and transit are eligible under CRRSAA. Article 19 limits SOF to only public street and highways for operations and maintenance.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

27. What is the deadline for submitting the lists to the Districts? Is it 2 months before the next CTC meeting? Or is it possible to submit closer to the CTC meeting dates?
Agencies receiving CRRSAA apportionments need to submit their project list and/or list amendments prior to October 2023. For CRRSAA projects, it is possible to submit closer to the CTC meeting date. For any given CTC meeting, CRRSAA projects to be listed need to be submitted to Caltrans no later than 5 weeks prior to the meeting date to allow time to collect, combine and ready the CRRSAA Agenda item attachment.
28. Is the FHWA authorization processed consecutively not concurrently with CTC approval?
Agencies submitting projects to be programmed by CTC via the Project Listing can concurrently submit their allocation/authorization request to Caltrans Local Assistance. The request will be processed immediately after Project List approval by Commission. Once FHWA approves the authorization request, reimbursable work may commence.

6/9/2021

29. CTC Guidelines state the CRRSAA funds must be rounded to thousands. However, our CRRSAA amount from the CTC is to the 1\$. Is it okay if one of our projects is not rounded so, we can program to the full amount provided to us?
To fully utilize all CRRSAA Apportionments, it is okay and encouraged to have one or more of the projects listed to the \$1.