

SENATE BILL SB-31

Introduced by Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-28)

An act relating to Southern California Event Transportation Investment Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-31, Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-28). Southern California Event Transportation Investment Act.

The existing law provides state funding for transportation infrastructure through various programs administered by the California State Transportation Agency and the Department of Transportation. Local governments and regional transportation agencies may also receive state and federal funds for transportation projects.

This bill would establish the Southern California Games Transportation Investment Program within the California State Transportation Agency. The program would provide competitive grants to eligible cities, counties, regional transportation planning agencies, transit agencies, and other eligible local transportation entities for transportation infrastructure projects in Southern California.

The bill would prioritize projects that improve public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, road and street safety, accessibility for people with disabilities, and connections between residential communities and major transportation hubs and event venues. The bill would require that a portion of the program funds benefit disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.

The bill would appropriate \$3,000,000 from the General Fund to the California State Transportation Agency for the purposes of the program. The agency would be responsible for establishing application procedures, awarding grants, monitoring projects, and reporting to the Legislature on the use and effectiveness of program funds.

Vote: 2/3rds. Appropriations/fiscal: yes. Local program: yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Southern California will host major international and national sporting events during 2027 and 2028, including Super Bowl LXI in Inglewood in 2027 and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games across Los Angeles and Orange counties.

(b) These events will bring large numbers of visitors to Southern California and will increase demand on roads, public transportation systems, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and other forms of transportation infrastructure.

(c) Investments made in preparation for these events should provide lasting benefits to residents of Southern California rather than solely serving temporary event-related needs.

(d) Transportation infrastructure is particularly important for working families, people who rely on public transportation, pedestrians, bicyclists, older adults, and people with disabilities.

(e) The State of California should support local communities in improving transportation infrastructure while creating opportunities for workers and ensuring that historically underserved communities receive a meaningful share of public investment.

SEC. 2. The Southern California Games Transportation Investment Program is hereby established within the California State Transportation Agency.

(a) The purpose of the program shall be to provide grants to eligible local agencies for transportation infrastructure projects that improve:

(1) Road and street conditions and safety.

(2) Sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian pathways, and other pedestrian infrastructure.

(3) Bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and other active transportation and micromobility infrastructure.

(4) Bus service infrastructure, including bus stops, shelters, transit signal priority, and bus-only or bus-priority lanes.

(5) Rail and other public transportation infrastructure

(6) Accessibility for persons with disabilities.

(7) Connections between neighborhoods, employment centers, transit stations, airports, and major event venues.

(8) Other transportation improvements determined by the California State Transportation Agency to advance the purposes of this section.

(a) For the purposes of this section, "eligible local agency" means a city, county, regional transportation planning agency, transit agency, joint powers authority, or other local or regional public entity responsible for transportation infrastructure in Southern California.

(b) The California State Transportation Agency shall establish an application and grant-award process for the program.

SEC. 3. In awarding grants pursuant to Section 2, the California State Transportation Agency shall give additional consideration to projects that do any of the following:

- (a) Serve disadvantaged or historically underserved communities.
- (b) Improve transportation access for low-income residents.
- (c) Improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- (d) Increase access to public transportation and reduce dependence on private automobiles.
- (e) Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- (f) Improve connections between residential communities and major employment centers, schools, universities, hospitals, and public transportation.
- (g) Provide long-term transportation benefits that will remain after the conclusion of the 2027 and 2028 sporting events
- (h) Leverage federal, local, or other non-state funding sources.

SEC. 4. At least 30 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to Section 6 shall be awarded to projects that substantially benefit disadvantaged or historically underserved communities.

The California State Transportation Agency shall develop criteria for determining whether a proposed project substantially benefits a disadvantaged or historically underserved community.

The criteria may consider household income, transportation access, existing infrastructure conditions, environmental burdens, disability accessibility, and other relevant community characteristics.

SEC. 5. The California State Transportation Agency shall encourage grant recipients to use local workers and state-registered apprenticeship programs in the construction and implementation of projects funded through this program.

(a) Grant recipients shall, to the greatest extent feasible, provide opportunities for workers residing in the communities served by the project.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from complying with applicable state or federal labor requirements or entering into a project labor agreement.

SEC. 6. The sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the California State Transportation Agency for allocation pursuant to the Southern California Games Transportation Investment Program.

(a) The funds shall be available for encumbrance until June 30, 2030.

(b) A grant awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for an individual project unless the California State Transportation Agency determines that a larger grant is necessary to complete a regionally significant transportation project.

(c) The California State Transportation Agency may use up to 2 percent of the funds appropriated by this section for administrative costs associated with administering the program.

SEC. 7. The California State Transportation Agency shall submit a report to the legislature on or before December 31, 2028, and a final report on or before December 31, 2030, describing the implementation of the program. The reports shall include all of the following:

(a) The number and geographic distribution of grants awarded.

(b) The types of transportation projects funded.

(c) The amount of funding awarded to disadvantaged or historically underserved communities.

(d) The number of projects completed.

(e) The amount of state funding leveraged by federal, local, or other sources.

(f) A description of the transportation and community benefits resulting from projects funded by the program.

SEC. 8. Nothing in this act shall prevent an eligible local agency from using other federal, state, or local transportation funds in conjunction with a grant awarded pursuant to this act, provided that the use of those funds is otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 9. This act shall take effect immediately as an urgency statute.