

Webinar

Next Generation Solutions & Clean Air + System Performance Programs

2026 SACOG Federal Funding Cycle

June 10, 2026



Today's Webinar

1. Overview

- Investment strategy
- Timeline

2. How to apply

- Pre-application consultations
- The PPA tool
- Completing the Full Application
- **NEW!** Application Portal
- What Reviewers Score
 - Project Competitiveness
 - Program-Specific Outcomes

3. Program Eligibility and Application Competitiveness

- System Performance
- Next Generation Solutions and Clean Air
- Q&A

2026 Federal Funding Cycle – At a Glance

Funding Period and Assumptions

- Covers FFYs 2028 through 2030
- Assumes federal reauthorization; updates provided if funding changes

Funding Available

- Next Generation Solutions & Clean Air Program (CMAQ): **~\$91.9M**
- System Performance Program (STBG): **~\$72M**

Investment Strategy

Three core programs structure funding to achieve balanced regional goals and implement 2025 Blueprint



Next Generation Solutions & Clean Air

\$91.9M CMAQ | June 2026 Call

Goal: Lower emissions, advance clean mobility

Outcome: Cleaner air • More travel options

Funds projects like:

- Transit improvements, traffic flow, smart signals
- Zero-emission vehicles & charging
- Bikeways, trails & Complete Streets



System Performance

\$72M 65% STBG | June 2026 Call

Goal: Improve transportation system function

Outcome: Safer, more reliable travel

Funds projects like:

- Safety & roadway upgrades, ITS
- Transit vehicles & facilities, mobility hubs
- EV charging, Bike/ped connections



System Preservation

\$38.8M - 35% STBG | March 2026 Call

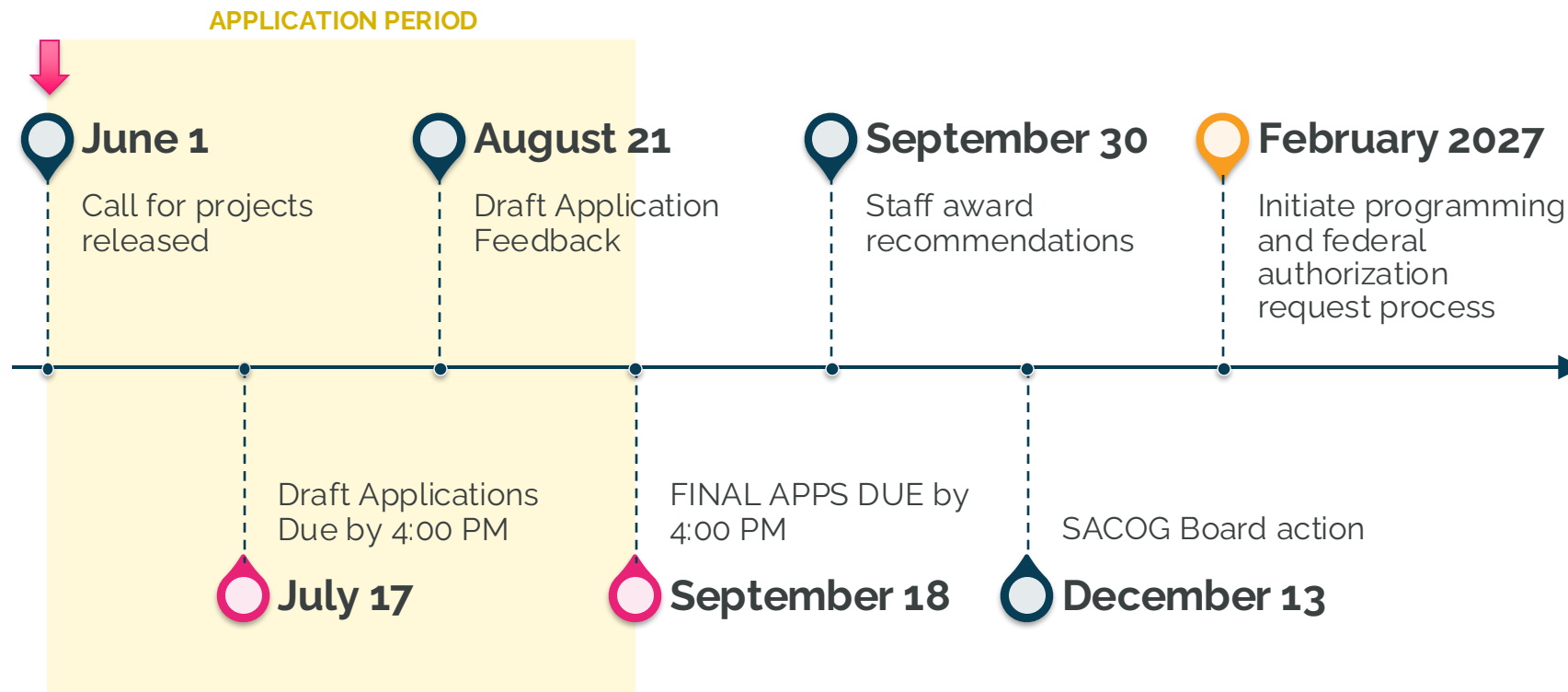
Goal: Maintain and extend life of key roadways

Outcome: Well-maintained, reliable roads

Funds: Pavement maintenance on major arterials and collectors that support:

- Transit routes, freight/goods movement
- Key destinations & commercial corridors
- Equity areas, Emergency/evac. routes,

Timeline



Note: See guidelines and/or program webpage for full schedule: [SACOG Federal Funding Cycle](#)

Pre-Application: What to Expect

What you'll Submit

- Basic project info (scope & location)
- Basic eligibility confirmation
- Needs addressed
- Project status and potential risks
- High-level cost and requested amount (planning estimates OK)
- Open: May 11 - June 26, 2026

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of a web-based pre-application form. The background screenshot is titled "Next Generation Solutions & Clean Air Program (CMAQ) Pre-Application" and contains sections for "Applicant Information" and "1. Before completing this form, have you...". The foreground screenshot is titled "2026 SACOG Federal Funding Cycle Pre-app Consultation" and features the SACOG logo, a "30-min System Performance/Next Generation Solutions & Clean Air..." meeting link, and a calendar for May 22, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

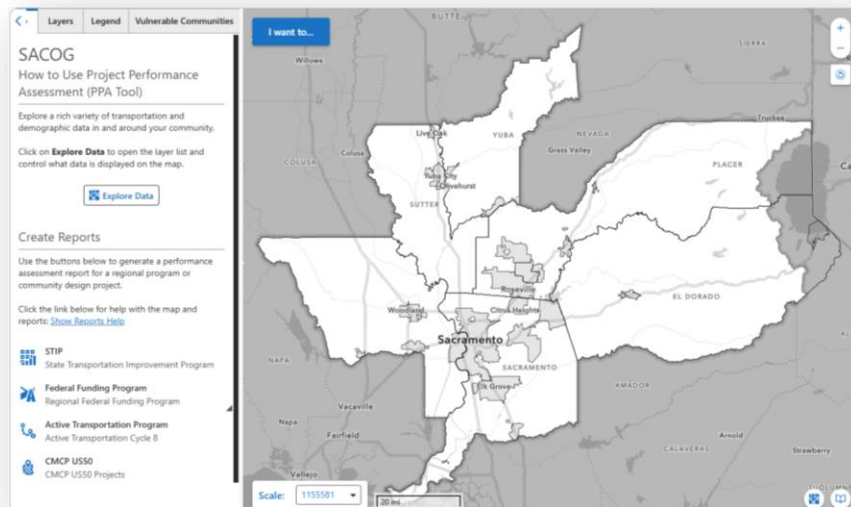
The PPA Tool

What it does

- Provides standardized data reviewers expect applicants to reference
- Supports your narrative with consistent regional metrics
- Helps establish corridor role, condition, and use

🚫 What it does NOT do

- Does not score or rank projects
- Does not replace your narrative
- Does not require you to interpret every chart



The PPA Tool



The PPA tool provides consistent, data-driven inputs used to assess project performance and support application narratives across programs.

Next Generation Solutions & Clean Air Program

- ✓ Travel behavior & mode use (transit, occupancy, mode split)
- ✓ Land use & access (jobs, services, schools)
- ✓ Network connectivity (streets, bike, transit)
- ✓ Travel conditions (congestion, reliability)

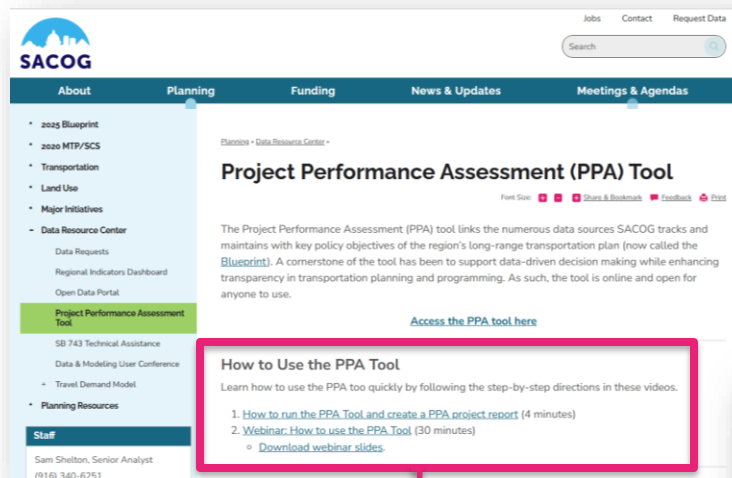
System Performance

- ✓ Safety (collisions, rates, severity)
- ✓ System performance (congestion, reliability)
- ✓ Freight & goods movement
- ✓ Network connectivity & access (jobs, schools)
- ✓ Asset condition (pavement, complete streets)

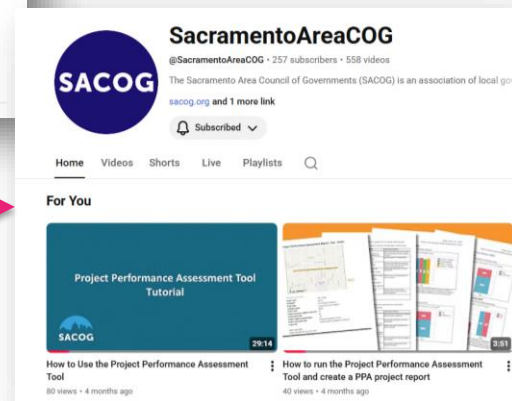
The PPA Tool

Where to get help

PPA Training Video and Webinar on [SACOG Website](https://www.sacog.org)



YouTube



<https://www.sacog.org/planning/data-resource-center/project-performance-assessment-tool>

Completing The Full Application

What you write

- **Background & Need (1–2 paragraphs)**
- **Community Engagement**
 - Documentation of who you talked to and how it shaped the project.
- **Performance Outcomes**
 - Choose two (2) that most apply

What you attach

- ✓ Project Programming Request (PPR) form
- ✓ Engineer's Estimate
- ✓ PPA Report/TAM
- ✓ Cost-Effectiveness Calculation (System Performance only)
- ✓ CMAQ Calculation (Next Gen and Clean Air only)
- ✓ Sponsor Priority Table
- ✓ Resolution of Local Support
- ✓ Optional: graphics, maps, visuals, and letters

New Online Grant Portal

All applications submitted online. Draft + final submissions in one system. Centralized submission, tracking, and management. More consistent review workflow

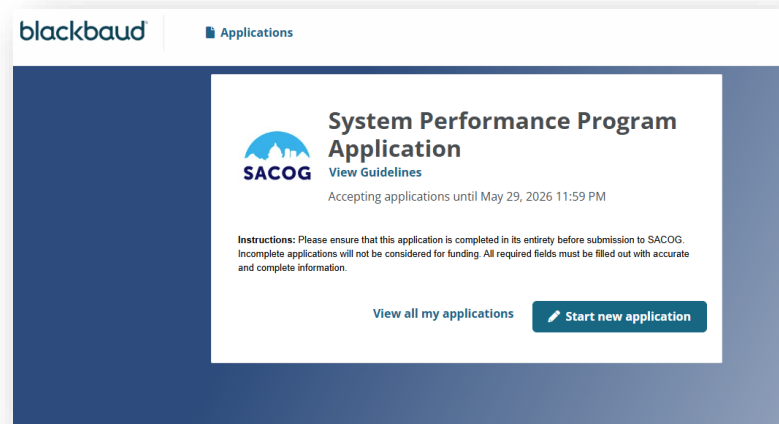
New two-step process: draft → final

- Staff feedback before final submission
- Returned comments help strengthen proposals

More transparent collaboration. Feedback, scoring, and reviews in one place.

What applicants should expect

- Plan time for revisions and staff feedback
- All submissions now handled through the portal
- Tutorial: Anticipated June 2026



What Reviewers Score

Background & Deliverability (20 pts)

- Deliverability, readiness (schedule, risk capacity) and financial capacity (11 pts)
- Alignment with local/regional priorities & engagement (6 pts)
- Cost Effectiveness (3 pts)

Program-Specific Outcomes (20 pts)

Attachment B



202

Background and Deliverability - 20 points available

These nine factors apply to all three programs (Next Generation Solutions and Clean Air Program, System Performance, and System Preservation).

How the Eval

Each project is scored using

- **Background & Deliverability**
These performance outcomes are applied to all programs.
- **Performance Outcome**
These performance outcomes are applied to all programs.

Next Generation Solutions
performance outcomes in project area demonstrate proposed project is expected

System Preservation Program
outcome, for a maximum describe an impact that is

The points listed points, including

Factor	Points (max)	Description
1. Project Readiness	3	Evaluates how prepared the project is to proceed within the requested phase, including progress on planning, environmental clearance, design, permits, and right-of-way. Higher scores reflect projects with clearly defined scope, completed prerequisites, and minimal barriers to timely delivery.
2. Ability to Proceed	3	Evaluates how ready the project is to initiate work immediately upon award. This focuses on near-term deliverability, including the ability to advertise, obligate funds, or begin construction or implementation within the program's expected timeframe. Higher scores reflect projects with complete or near-complete prerequisites for the requested phase, clear schedules showing readiness to proceed, and no major unresolved barriers to starting work.
3. Past Performance & Risk Assessment	3	Evaluates the applicant's track record delivering similar projects and the extent to which project risks (scope, schedule, environmental, right-of-way, funding) are identified and addressed. Higher scores reflect strong past performance and well-managed or minimal risks. First-time applicants can still score well if they demonstrate solid fund management and a credible plan to identify and address potential risks.
4. Financial Plan & Viability	2	Evaluates whether the applicant has a realistic and complete funding strategy to deliver the requested phase. This includes identifying committed and anticipated funding sources, local match, contingency assumptions, and plans to address potential funding gaps. Higher scores reflect projects with clearly identified funding sources, reasonable cost assumptions and contingency below 10%, and a credible plan to address shortfalls or cost escalation.
5. Cost effectiveness	3	Evaluates whether the project provides meaningful benefits for its cost through right-sized, targeted treatments. Higher scores reflect projects where the expected impact is proportional to or exceeds the investment. This helps ensure projects are appropriately scaled to their context and prevents defaulting to large capital projects simply because they serve high-volume corridors. For NextGen / CMAQ-eligible projects, this includes demonstrated cost effectiveness using the required CMAQ calculation methodology (e.g., cost per unit of emissions or VMT reduction), where applicable.

Project Competitiveness: Background & Deliverability★

Scoring Criteria	Competitive	Typical	Less competitive
Delivery (11pts)	- Realistic milestones - Few barriers - Committed Funding	- Milestones OK - Minor risks - Funding expected	- Timeline aggressive - Funding uncertain
Priorities & Engagement (6 pts)	- Regional/Local priority - Documented engagement (e.g. meeting, survey, complaints, CAC input)	Local priority only, Limited engagement, but a PMP or internal prioritization process exists and is explained	- No engagement - Weak explanation for why project was selected for CIP - Unclear priority alignment
Cost Effective (3 pts)	- High CE vs peers - Right-sized scope	CE comparable to peers	- Low CE vs peers - Oversized or misaligned scope

★ **Note:** Applies to both programs. Criteria grouped for simplicity.

Program-Specific Outcomes

Next Generation Solutions and Clean Air Program

Choose two (2)

- VMT Reduction
- Congestion Reduction
- Modal Choice Improvement
- Economic Prosperity
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience

System Performance Program

Choose two (2)

- VMT Reduction
- Congestion Reduction
- Modal Choice Improvement
- Economic Prosperity
- Goods Movement
- Safety and Security
- State of Good Repair

How to get help

Complete the pre-app form and schedule a consultation (**Highly Recommended**)

Contact

David Pape, dpape@sacog.org

For all 2026 Funding Program questions



**Any questions
so far?**

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & PROJECT COMPETITIVENESS

Program Eligibility: **System Performance Program**



Eligible Work

Work that **modernizes existing transportation infrastructure**, improves the **regional** network performance, and advances **safety, resiliency, and operations**.

Best For

- ✓ Active transportation and multimodal, connectivity, safety, and resiliency upgrades
- ✓ Transformative operational roadway improvements, managed lanes
- ✓ Transit capital improvements, ITS, and electric vehicle infrastructure

Not For

- ✗ New unmanaged roadway capacity
- ✗ Standalone expansion without system benefit
- ✗ Projects lacking regional network function

Project Competitiveness: System Performance Program



Criteria	Competitive	Typical	Less Competitive
VMT	• High, clearly demonstrated reduction in vehicle travel • Strong influence on trip-making	• Moderate reduction with some demonstrated impact on travel patterns	• Limited or unclear reduction in vehicle travel
Congestion	• Significant, sustained improvement in reliability and overall system performance	• Measurable improvement • Benefits moderate in scale or certainty	• Limited or poorly demonstrated improvement
Modal Choice	• Substantial improvement in connectivity and viable travel options across the system	• Moderate improvement in access or connectivity	• Minimal improvement to travel options or connectivity

Project Competitiveness: System Performance Program



Criteria	Competitive	Typical	Less Competitive
Economic Prosperity	• Improves access to major activity centers • Supports movement of people at scale	• Moderate or secondary access benefits to jobs or destinations	• Limited connection to key economic areas
Goods Movement	• Improves reliability and efficiency where goods movement demand is significant	• Moderate or supporting benefit to goods movement	• Limited relevance or impact on goods movement
Safety	• Addresses significant or systemic risks • Clear and lasting safety improvements	• Incremental improvement addressing identified concerns	• Limited or unclear safety benefit
State of Good Repair	• Addresses significant condition needs • Improves reliability of key assets	• Moderate improvement to asset condition	• Limited improvement or approach misaligned with need

Program Eligibility: Next Gen + Clean Air Program



Eligible Work

Projects that **reduce emissions**, improve **air quality**, and offer **more travel options** to shift trips to sustainable modes.

Best For

- ✓ High-capacity transit improvements
- ✓ Zero emission vehicles and charging infrastructure
- ✓ Bikeways, trails, and complete streets
- ✓ Traffic flow and signal upgrades that reduce idling
- ✓ Micromobility and vanpool programs

Not For

- ✗ New or existing roadway and interchange expansion
- ✗ Maintenance or state of good repair projects
- ✗ Projects with no clear air quality or mode shift benefit

Project Competitiveness: Next Gen + Clean Air Program



Scoring Criteria	Competitive	Typical	Less competitive
VMT Reduction (10 pts)	• High, clearly demonstrated reduction in vehicle travel • Meaningful influence on overall travel patterns	• Moderate reduction in vehicle travel • Some demonstrated impact on travel patterns	• Limited or unclear reduction in vehicle travel • Minimal change in travel patterns
Congestion Reduction (10 pts)	• Addresses significant, well-documented delay or system constraints • Improves reliability and overall system performance	• Provides measurable improvements • Benefits are moderate in scale or certainty	• Limited or poorly demonstrated improvement • Minimal change in reliability or delay
Modal Choice (10 pts)	• Substantially improves connectivity or travel options • Improves usability of the system across key connections	• Improves access or connectivity • Benefits are moderate in scale or completeness	• Minimal improvement to connectivity or travel options • Travel options largely unchanged

Project Competitiveness: Next Gen + Clean Air Program



Scoring Criteria	Competitive	Typical	Less competitive
Economic Prosperity (10 pts)	- Provides significant access improvements to major activity centers - Supports movement of people or goods at scale	- Provides moderate access improvements - Benefits are secondary or limited in scale	- Limited or unclear access benefits - Minimal connection to key economic areas
Climate Adaptation & Resilience (10 pts)	- Integrates risk and vulnerability reduction as a core project outcome - Demonstrates clear resilience benefits	- Addresses risk or vulnerability in a partial or supporting way - Benefits are present but not central	- No clear connection to reducing risk or vulnerability - Benefits are minimal or absent

Next Gen + Clean Air Program: CMAQ calculator



What the Tool Does

- Quantifies emissions reductions
- Estimates air quality benefits
- Evaluates project cost-effectiveness
- Standardizes CMAQ project evaluation statewide

Why It Matters

- Quantifies project emissions benefits
- Strengthens project competitiveness
- Supports CMAQ eligibility requirements

Best Practices

- Use realistic assumptions and data
- Focus on measurable transportation impacts
- Clearly document inputs and methodology
- Coordinate with SACOG staff early

Key Takeaway

- The CMAQ Calculator helps demonstrate measurable clean air benefits for CMAQ-funded transportation projects.

Key Takeaways on Competitiveness

1. Start with a clear, disciplined narrative

Explain project need, role, and benefits clearly and directly.

2. Use the PPA as supporting evidence, not the story

Reference the metrics that matter; don't try to explain every chart.

3. Strong projects are balanced, not perfect

Competitive applications perform well across criteria; reviewers do not expect every box to be checked.

4. Focus on today's corridor use, needs, and realistic delivery

Ground your project in current conditions and clearly demonstrate what it will achieve.

5. Anchor your application in selected performance outcomes.

*Choose the two outcomes that best fit your project and clearly demonstrate benefits using narrative and data.
(NextGen: include quantified emissions reduction using the CMAQ calculator.)*



Questions?