Obstacles to Funding Sustainable Streets

Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association
Outline

- Key issue – funding “silos”
- Ineligible costs
- Match requirements
- Funding cycles
- Grant periods
- Scoring of cost effectiveness
- Grant administration

Source: Wikimedia Commons (Author: Rodrigo Moraes)
Key Issue: Funding Silos

- Each funding agency operates its own program(s)
- Coordination with other agencies may not be needed
Ineligible Costs - Project Type

- Some transportation grants don’t allow green infrastructure
- Some resources sector grants may not allow bicycle/pedestrian facilities
- Sometimes this is programmatic policy, sometimes legislative
Ineligible Costs - Project Activities

- One grant may not cover all project phases, such as:
  - Planning
  - Design
  - Administration/coordination
  - Construction
  - Monitoring
  - Maintenance
Matches for Multiple Grants - Funding Source

- Restrictions on source of matching funds
  - For example, federal, state, or local
  - Some transportation grants combine federal and state funds
Matches for Multiple Grants - Project Elements

- Restrictions on project element funded by match
  - Can funding of transportation element serve as match for resources sector grant?
  - Can funding of green infrastructure serve as match for transportation grant?
Funding Cycles Not Coordinated

- Funding cycles are not coordinated
  - Within the resources sectors
  - Across sectors
- Leads to opportunistic funding of projects
  - Does a project have the right level of design?
  - Does another grant happen to be available?
Grant Periods May Not Align

- Issue for projects with multiple grants
- Delays may result due to
  - Getting a new grant
  - Change of scope under existing grant
- Ability to obtain grant extensions may not be well described in solicitations
Scoring of Cost Effectiveness

- Transportation grants look at the most cost-effective solution to provide the transportation benefit.

- A transportation project that adds green infrastructure would not score as well as one without.
Grant Administration - Applications

- Cost of resources to
  - Track grant opportunities
  - Apply for multiple, often complex grants
  - Package same project for grants with different criteria

- Risk of losing grant if other applications are unsuccessful
Grant Administration - Tracking/Reporting

- Separate record-keeping and reporting for each grant
- Support audits on multiple grants
- May require separate contracts for different elements of one project
Roundtable Discussion

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