

**Feb. 2, 2015**  
**Issue #10**

**Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Grant Application Process Opens**  
*Cities Must Act Quickly: Concept Applications due by Feb. 19*

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), in conjunction with the Strategic Growth Council (SCG), have opened the application process for the [FY 2014-15 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities \(AHSC\) Program grants](#). Up to \$120 million in grants will be awarded this fiscal year. The application period is extremely compacted; cities will need to act quickly. *For more, see Page 2.*



**HUTA Estimates for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 Now Available**  
*Sharp Decline Anticipated*

CaliforniaCityFinance.com on Friday posted new [city by city estimates of FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 HUTA \(gas tax\) allocations](#). The estimates are based on new statewide revenue estimates from the California Department of Finance released in January with Gov. Jerry Brown's FY 2015-16 state budget proposal. In particular, cities should note the approximate 20 to 25 percent downturn in revenue for FY 2015-16 from the prior year. This is largely due to falling gasoline prices and consumption as well as "true ups" under the fuel tax swap system. *For more, see Page 2.*



**Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee Meets**  
*Inaugural Meeting Sets Tone for Discussion*

The California Transportation Commissions' [Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee](#) held its inaugural meeting on Friday, Jan. 23 in Sacramento. Established by last year's [SB 1077 \(DeSaulnier, Chapter 835\)](#), the committee is tasked with studying the feasibility of a road usage charge as an alternative to a gas tax. *For more, see Page 2.*

## Application Process

Concept proposal application and instructions will be available on [HCD's website](#) by close of business today, Monday, Feb 2. Concept proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 19.

Applications chosen will be notified by March 11. If your city's project is chosen, the deadline to submit the full application will be Apr. 15.

The AHSC program will provide grants and/or loans to projects intended to achieve greenhouse reductions by increasing accessibility of affordable housing, employment centers and key destinations via low-carbon transportation options like walking, biking and transit.

Half of the program's funding must be used for affordable housing and half must benefit disadvantaged communities (see *CA Cities Advocate* story titled "[List Identifies Disadvantaged Communities](#)").

Questions about the grants and the AHSC program can be directed to [AHSC@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:AHSC@hcd.ca.gov).

## Grant Application Workshops

In the next two weeks, SGC will also be hosting a [series of workshops](#) throughout California for cities interested in applying for AHSC grant money.

Workshop locations and dates are as follows:

- San Diego: Feb. 4
- San Bernardino: Feb. 5
- Los Angeles: Feb. 6
- Bakersfield: Feb. 9
- Stockton: Feb. 10
- Oakland: Feb. 12

[Registration](#) for the workshops is available online. The League is also coordinating a webinar-based workshop with SGC. Details on the webinar will be available soon.

## League Cap-and-Trade Resources

The League's AHSC program information sheet can be found under the housing tab on the [Cap-and-Trade](#) hot issues webpage.

For transportation-related questions, please contact League Assistant Legislative Director [Jennifer Whiting](#). For housing questions, please contact League Legislative Representative [Kirstin Kolpitcke](#).

The sharp decrease in transportation revenues is garnering significant attention from the Governor, Legislature, and press. Discussions on how to increase transportation funding while providing more stability are intensifying. Many are looking to a road usage for a long-term solution, but the League is joining many other transportation stakeholders to let the Legislature and Governor know that there is a crisis now. For years the League has argued that it is a matter of paying now or paying much more in the future. Results from the [2014 Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment](#) support that fact: today's \$40 billion backlog will grow to \$51 billion in just five years if additional investment is not made quickly.

In addition, the League is actively advocating that some measure needs to be put in place to stabilize gas tax revenues before the start of FY 2015-16. Impacts of the 2010 gas tax swap have been strongly felt since its enactment. It is time for the Legislature and Governor to act to minimize the wild swing of revenues that make it difficult to plan multi-year transportation projects.

A full discussion of transportation revenues and the 2010 gas tax swap can be found in the [report](#).

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**'Committee' Continued from Page 1...**

The committee will hold monthly meetings over the next year to study and develop recommendations for a road usage charge. The recommendations will be submitted to the California State Transportation Agency, which is charged with developing a demonstration project based on the recommendations.

The committee comprises 15 members that represent a variety of interests including the legislature, privacy concerns, local government, highway user groups, data security, telecommunications, academia, and business.

At the first meeting, committee members were briefed on the state of transportation funding in California as well as pilot programs and implementation processes in Washington and Oregon. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26.

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