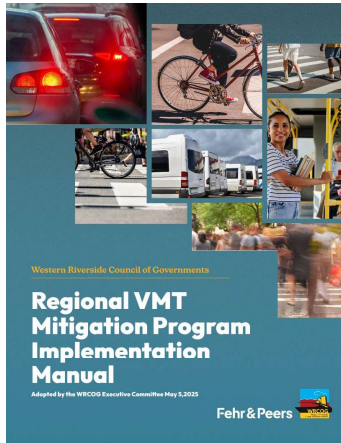


Regional VMT Mitigation Program



1

History Of This Effort

- 2021 Executive Committee authorized WRCOG Staff to begin work on a VMT Mitigation Program
- Since 2022, we have been working collaboratively with RCTC, RTA, and RCA to develop a Regional VMT Mitigation Program
- 15 Meetings with WRCOG Agencies during the process
 - 2 Executive Committee Meetings
 - 2 Technical Advisory Committee Meetings
 - 6 Public Works Committee
 - 5 Planning Directors Committee
 - 2 VMT specific workshops for member agencies
- Developed a Final Program Manual that enables implementation of a Regional VMT Mitigation Program



2

Why Are We Doing This?

- SB 743 requires transportation and development projects to analyze and mitigate VMT impacts
 - Any project which requires the preparation of a CEQA document (EIR, Negative Declaration, etc.) must address this issue
- Difficult for an individual project to mitigate VMT as transportation is a regional issue
- A regional VMT program will ensure that these projects can progress
- State of California has concluded that any capacity enhancing transportation improvement automatically generates a VMT impact that needs to be mitigated
 - New roads/roadway widening
 - New/upgraded interchanges
- If TUMF Projects can not mitigate their VMT impacts, they won't be able to progress



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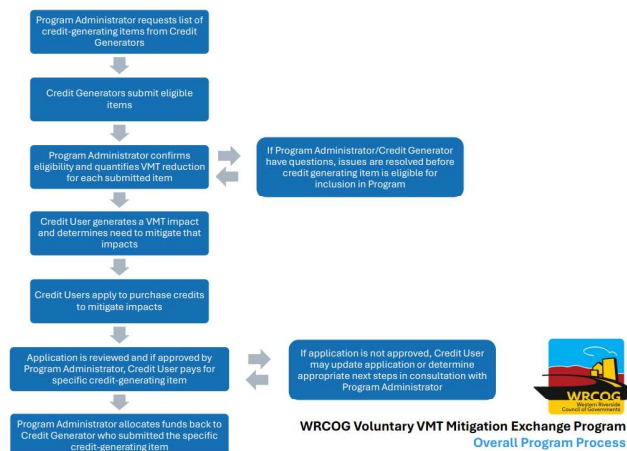
Key Elements of the VMT Mitigation Program

- Voluntary program, not mandatory like impact fee programs
 - Program is an Exchange, not a bank or a fee
- WRCOG is the Program Administrator
- Agencies would identify potential VMT reduction items (credit generating items)
- Agencies or private developers who have CEQA VMT impacts will purchase these items from the Program
- WRCOG collects an administrative fee (4%) on the transaction to support the Program
- Remainder of the funding collected goes back to the agency implementing the credit-generating item
- Formal Program Manual and agreements



4

Regional Program: Mitigation Exchange



5

Regional Program: Mitigation Exchange

- **Credit Generator:** A public agency that implements a project or program that produces a VMT reduction credit. Credit generators will enter into a Participation Agreement with the Program Administrator. This agreement enables public agencies to submit credit-generating items to the Program that are eligible to receive funding through the Program.
- **Credit-generating Item:** A specific project or program that has produced or may produce a credit.
- **Credit User:** Land development or transportation project administrator that needs VMT reduction credits for CEQA mitigation. Can be a project applicant or lead agency.
- **VMT Impact:** The generation of VMT above the applicable threshold of significance by a project, which may require a Credit User to seek a mitigating credit(s).



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Regional Program: Mitigation Exchange

- Many projects screen from VMT assessment
 - Available VMT screening tools
 - De minimus criteria for small projects in progress
- Only projects that don't screen and identify significant impacts would require mitigation
- Projects with significant impacts do not have to use the exchange, they can pursue other mitigation options. **This program is optional.**
 - On-site or other VMT mitigation options can still be used



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Regional Program: Mitigation Exchange

- Projects (lead agency or applicant) that pursue mitigation through the exchange will have options, and can choose which items they want to fund through the exchange
 - Mitigation options will depend on what is submitted to the exchange, and will vary over time, but will likely include a mix of active transportation (bike lanes, sidewalks), transit service, bus shelters, transit passes, funding for affordable housing, and other strategies
- **PROGRAM IS NOT A FEE OR A BANK**
 - Cost of credits will not be uniform and will depend on the cost of the credit-generating item chosen for purchase



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How Does the WRCOG Program Relate to Other VMT Programs?

- WRCOG Program allows agencies to participate in multiple VMT mitigation programs
- Limitation is that a proposed VMT mitigation program/project cannot be included in another program and the WRCOG program simultaneously
- What Is Not Allowed:
 - City of Temecula is implementing a 1-mile Class II bicycle lane on a major roadway
 - City of Temecula enrolls this project in the WRCOG program
 - City of Temecula separately sells credits based on this same project (overlap)
- What is Allowed:
 - City of Temecula is implementing a 1-mile Class II bicycle lane on a major roadway
 - City enrolls this project in the WRCOG program
 - City has other bicycle lane projects that it sells credits separately (no overlap)

How Would the WRCOG Program Interact with Any State Efforts?

- Parties needing VMT credits can choose to participate in either the WRCOG effort, the proposed Statewide effort, local programs, or develop their own strategies
- WRCOG worked with CalCOG and others to ensure that recent legislation does not preclude regional programs from operating even if a Statewide program is available
- Each party that needs VMT credits will have the flexibility to find the solution that works best for them
- The WRCOG Program is deliberately designed to offer options to those needing credits and provide those credits in a cost-effective manner



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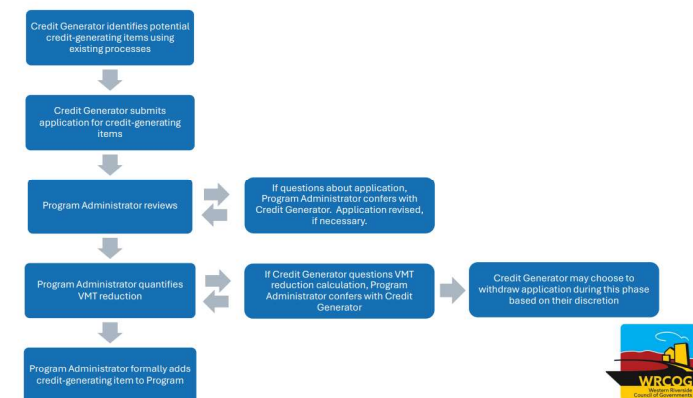
Why Have WRCOG Administer the Program?

- WRCOG Partner agencies (RTA, RCTC, and RCA) have asked us to
- WRCOG has an extensive TUMF fee collection online systems that could easily be adapted to implement the VMT Mitigation Program
- WRCOG has direct contacts with agencies implementing transportation projects (TUMF)
- WRCOG has contacts with private developers who will need VMT credits through TUMF
- Requires knowledge of land use, transportation, affordable housing, transit, and program administration, which WRCOG has



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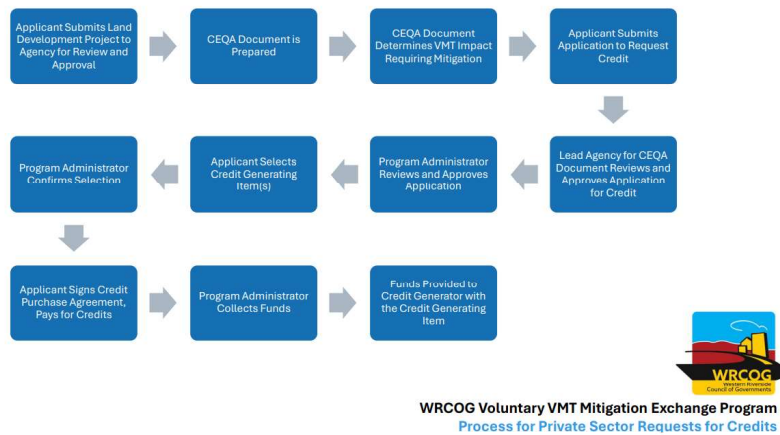
Submitting Credit-Generating Items



WRCOG Voluntary VMT Mitigation Exchange Program
Process for Submitting Credit-Generating Items

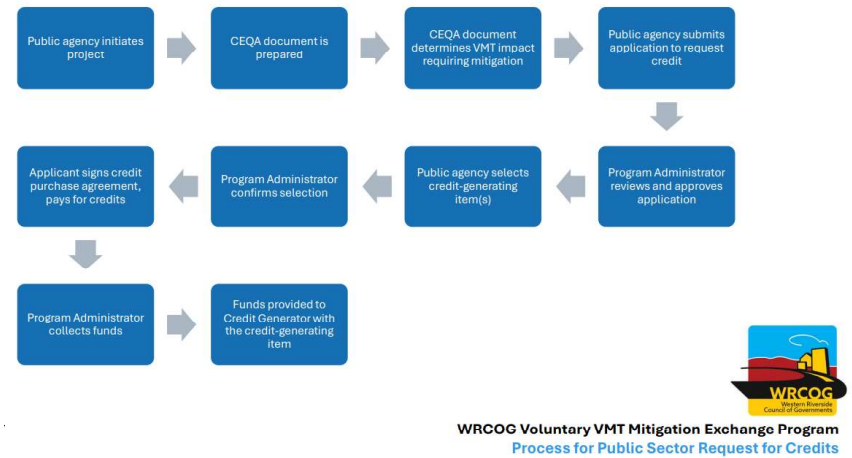
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Purchasing Credits from the Exchange



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Purchasing Credits from the Exchange



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Q&A



Questions? **We are here to help**

Visit <https://wrcog.us/356/VMT-Mitigation-Program> for more information



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