



2025 COMTO Future of Transportation Scholarship Program SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – FALL 2025

Overview

COMTO is a national professional organization founded in 1971 to advance the representation of professionals in the transportation industry, nurture their career growth through networking and training, and champion transportation development. A cornerstone of COMTO's work is supporting the next generation of transportation professionals and providing financial support for students in need. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of COMTO's Northern California Chapter (COMTO NorCal) and COMTO NorCal's 22nd Scholarship and Industry Awards Gala.

COMTO NorCal's Future of Transportation Scholarship Program is currently seeking applicants through **October 17, 2025** for scholarship awards of **\$2,000 to \$10,000 each**.

Eligibility

- Undergraduate and graduate students who are U.S. citizens, are residents of Northern California or are actively enrolled in an accredited community college or university or trade/vocational school in Northern California (San Francisco Bay Area or Sacramento Area).
- Demonstrated intent to pursue a career in transportation, including (but not limited to):
 - o Transportation Planning
 - o Transportation Engineering
 - o Mobility as a Service
 - o Public Policy
 - o Environmental Science
 - o Aviation Science
 - o Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - o Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
 - o Business, Communications, Government Affairs, and related areas
- Demonstrated major or coursework in disciplines applicable to transportation including (but not limited to):
 - o Urban Design/Urban Planning
 - o Engineering: Civil, Construction, Mechanical, Electrical, Environmental
 - o Business: Communication, Economics, Public Health, Policy, IT
 - o Social Sciences: Political Science, Pre-law
 - o Aviation: Management, Aeronautics, Air Traffic Control (ATC), Professional Pilot

Requirements

- Applicants must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above.
- Community College students must be in a specific degree program or demonstrate intent to transfer to university.
- Undergraduate students must be entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year.
- Applicants must demonstrate involvement in school, work, community, and/or other organizations, as well as a commitment to advancing their local communities.
- **Note: Scholarship recipients are required to attend a COMTO event or meeting (in person or virtual) to receive the scholarship.** Events/meetings may include the Scholarship Awards Program on December 5, 2025, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., or chapter committee meetings. Scholarship funds will be mailed to winners after the December 5th event.
- **Students may receive scholarships a maximum of two times** from this COMTO chapter.

Application Process

Applicants must package and submit **all** the following:

- **Completed Student Application Form** (Item A below)
- **Career Interest Essay** (Item B below, **250 to 500 words**)
- **Challenge-Solution Scenario** (Item C below, **no more than 250 words**)
- **Financial Need Statement** (Item D below)
- **Transcripts** (Item E below, most recent college transcript showing cumulative GPA)
- **Resume** (Item F below)
- **Two References** (Item G below) – Letters from (1) a college instructor, counselor, or advisor, and (2) a professional, academic, or personal reference.

Note: Additional consideration will be given if your references prepare letters on letterheads from the organizations with which they are affiliated.



A. Student Application Form

(Please print or type)

1.	Applicant Name	
2.	Current College/University	
3.	Campus City/State	
4.	College/University Major	
5.	Academic Status as of October 1, 2025	Sophomore / Junior / Senior / Graduate Student / Vocational Student
6.	Expected Graduation Date	
7.	Permanent Residence Phone Number	
8.	Permanent Residence Address	
9.	College/University Residence Address	
10.	Cell Phone Number	
11.	E-mail Address	
12.	Are you a resident of Northern California (San Francisco Bay Area or Sacramento Area)?	Yes / No
13.	Do you currently attend a school in Northern California (San Francisco Bay Area or Sacramento Area)?	Yes / No
14.	Are you currently a student member of COMTO?	Yes / No
15.	If so, which chapter?	

16.	How did you learn about COMTO and/or the COMTO scholarship? (25 to 50 words)	
17.	In what types of activities have you participated to demonstrate your commitment to improving the local community? (50 to 150 words)	



18.	Have you ever been awarded a COMTO scholarship?	Yes / No
19.	If yes, specify year received and COMTO chapter (or National) that awarded the scholarship.	
20.	Five-sentence biography for use at the Scholarship Award Gala on December 5, 2025, if selected for award. Include information about your interest in COMTO and transportation.	
	<i>Signature – I attest that all responses are accurate:</i>	
	<i>Date:</i>	

List of Institutions of Higher Education Attended
Start by listing with current or last attended institution first.

Name and Location of Institution	Dates of Attendance	Degree Earned	Date Awarded	Major



B. Career Interest Essay – Think about the contributions you will make to the transportation industry. In 250 to 500 words, answer the following:

- What inspired your interest in a transportation career?
- How will you translate your major/education into a transportation career?
- As a transportation professional, how will you support the local community?
- What life experiences have you overcome to get where you are today?

C. Challenge-Solution Scenario – Think about your experiences using traditional transportation (bus, rail, bike, car) or new mobility (shared bikes/scooters, on-demand rideshare services, etc.) – for example, access, affordability, and reliability. In no more than 250 words, explain an improvement or innovation you would implement as a solution to a transportation challenge if you were a transportation professional.

D. Financial Need Statement – In 150-200 words, please describe one financial challenge you have faced that most people might not see but that has significantly impacted your ability to focus on or continue your education in transportation or public infrastructure. How would this scholarship help you address that specific challenge?

E. Transcripts – Please send your most recent grade transcripts. Transcripts do not have to be official transcripts – contact your school’s registration office for assistance.

F. Resume – Provide a resume (up to two pages) that includes information on your work experience, volunteer activities, education, honors/awards received, and other interests.

G. Two References – Provide two letters of reference, one letter from a college instructor, counselor, or advisor, and one letter from a professional, academic, or personal reference. Letters of reference should answer the following questions:

- What is the reference’s relationship to the applicant?
- When did the reference meet the applicant?
- What is the time period (month/year) that the reference has had knowledge of the applicant’s work or character?
- How would the reference describe the quality of applicant's work?
- How would the reference describe the applicant's character?
- Why does the reference recommend the applicant for the scholarship?
- **CONFIDENTIALITY: *References may provide letters to the applicant (whether sealed or not) so that they may be submitted along with other application materials. If confidentiality is desired, references may email letters directly to COMTO NorCal at scholarships@comtonorcal.org. Reference may also return letters to the applicant in sealed envelope or send letters directly to COMTO NorCal using the following address:***

COMTO of Northern California – Scholarship Program
Attention: Scholarship Committee Chairperson – Reference for (insert applicant name)
PO BOX 71855
OAKLAND, CA 94612-8055



APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application materials (including letters of reference) must be electronically date-stamped or postmarked NO LATER THAN October 17, 2025.

1. E-MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION IN PDF FORMAT TO:

TO: scholarships@comtonorcal.org

SUBJECT: 2025 COMTO - Future of Transportation Scholarship Program- SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

OR

2. MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

COMTO of Northern California – Scholarship Program
Attention: Scholarship Committee Chairperson
PO BOX 71855
OAKLAND CA 94612-8055

Applications must be postmarked by October 17 and received no later than Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at the COMTO NorCal PO BOX.

Thank you for your interest in the COMTO scholarship program! If you have questions, email COMTO NorCal Scholarship Co-Chairs Mydria Clark and Ricardo Rodriguez at scholarships@comtonorcal.org.