



National Capital Region  
**Transportation Planning Board**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** TPB Technical Committee  
**FROM:** Lamont B. Cobb, TPB Transportation Planner  
John Swanson, TPB Plan Development and Support Manager  
**SUBJECT:** FY 2017 Surface Transportation Block Grant Set Aside for Northern Virginia TPB Jurisdictions (previously known as the Transportation Alternatives Program)  
**DATE:** April 1, 2016

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This memo summarizes the process used to select projects for the FY 2017 regional Surface Transportation Program Block Grant Set-aside for Northern Virginia and the projects recommended for funding. The TPB will be asked to approve Resolution R13-2016 to provide funding for projects for the regional sub-allocation under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP Set Aside) of the Federal Highway Administration for FY 2017 in Northern Virginia. This program was previously known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

### **Background**

The Transportation Alternatives Program was a MAP-21 formula program that provided funding to projects “alternative” to traditional highway capacity expansion. TAP combined three former federal programs: Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), and Recreational Trails (RTP). MAP-21 specified that in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) shall, “through a competitive process, select projects in consultation with the State.” Eligible recipients included local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts and agencies, and other appropriate local or regional governmental entities. Non-profits could also apply, through partnership with local government agencies.

Under the 2015 Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST), TAP was integrated into the new legislation as the STP Set Aside. The types of recipients previously eligible to receive funding under the MAP-21 TAP funds are still eligible under the new program. In addition, FAST extended eligibility to non-profit organizations. The funding formulas and level of MPO involvement remain unchanged from the previous TAP. The FAST Act provides funding for the STP Set Aside through FY 2020.

For the National Capital Region, the program offers an opportunity to support and enhance regional planning activities. At the direction of the Board, our region’s STP Set Aside is framed as a complementary component of the TPB’s Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, which provides technical assistance for small planning studies to TPB member jurisdictions.

The funding also offers the region the ability to fund projects that support regional priorities and goals, based on recommendations outlined in the *Regional Transportation Priorities Plan* and *Region Forward*. The regional component of Virginia's application and the regional selection criteria are based on these priorities. In particular, these priorities promote better non-motorized circulation within Regional Activity Centers and improved ped/bike access to transit.

TPB staff works with the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Local Assistance Division to conduct a cooperative solicitation for Northern Virginia. Since the establishment of TAP in 2012, and now the STP Set Aside in 2015, the TPB continues to combine its solicitations with the state departments of transportation in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

### **FY 2017 Solicitation for Virginia**

VDOT conducted the solicitation for new projects in Virginia including projects to be selected by the TPB and funded under the STP Set Aside funds. Applications were due electronically to the VDOT Local Assistance Division on November 1, 2015. For applicants from Northern Virginia, the VDOT's application included a supplementary form requesting information about how projects responded to priorities for the Washington metropolitan region.

For Northern Virginia, a total of 15 applications were received representing a total of \$7,658,033 in requested funding. The TPB has \$2,914,395 in funding available. These applications are eligible for statewide STP Set Aside funding as well as the TPB's sub-allocated funds. Virginia has \$21,523,065 in STP Set-Aside funds, including \$10,761,533 for projects state-wide.

Virginia conducts a three-part process for project selection:

1. The district members of Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) each have \$1 million for project selection from the statewide pot of funding;
2. MPOs select projects for sub-allocated funds;
3. The at-large members of the CTB select projects for the remainder of the statewide money.

The CTB District Member for Northern Virginia is Gary Garczynski. Mr. Garczynski announced his project selections in early March for the \$1 million allocated to his district. His selections can be found in the table at the end of this document.

### **Project Selection for Northern Virginia**

The TPB will complete the second step in the selection process noted above. Representatives from the District of Columbia and Maryland transportation planning departments were invited to participate on the TPB's regional review panel with staff. The panel met on March 25. Panel participants included:

- John Swanson, Plan Development and Support Manager, COG/TPB staff
- Michael Farrell, Senior Transportation Planner, COG/TPB staff
- Lamont Cobb, Transportation Planner, COG/TPB staff

- Kevin Belanger, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Rockville.
- Stephen Rice, Strategic Planner, District Department of Transportation

Panel members individually reviewed and scored applications up to 100 points. The total score is a composite based on each reviewer's professional assessment (50pts) and regional selection criteria (50pts). The professional assessment is based on the panel member's knowledge of transportation planning in the region and local project management experience. The regional criteria are rooted in TPB policies and programs, with the understanding that some projects would not meet all criteria. Regional selection criteria included the following:

- **Transportation options (10pts):** Will the project significantly increase transportation options for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-drivers? Will the transportation benefits of the project be more than just recreational?
- **Regional Activity Centers (10pts):** Does the project enhance walkability and accessibility within or between Regional Activity Centers?
- **Safe routes to schools (5pts):** Does the project enhance safe ped/bike access to schools?
- **Disadvantaged communities (5pts):** Does the project promote accessibility for disadvantaged communities?
- **People with disabilities (5pts):** Is the project largely intended to promote accessibility for people with disabilities?
- **Local commitment (5pts):** Does the application provide local matches greater than the 20 percent minimum requirement?

At the review panel's meeting on March 25, each member provided rankings of the project applications under consideration as high/medium/low based on the total scores. The panel then grouped and evaluated the projects for funding based on the rankings.

At the end of the March 25 Meeting, the review panel recommended eight projects for funding. Mr. Rice was unexpectedly unable to participate in the panel meeting, but reviewed the project selections and gave concurrence to the panel's funding recommendations. The list of recommended projects is at the end of this memo.

### Next Steps

Following the TPB's action on April 20, TPB staff will forward information regarding the selected projects to VDOT for inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six Year Improvement Plan for Transportation. The CTB will also consider funding the remaining Northern Virginia projects with the statewide STP Set Aside funding. The CTB has \$10.8 million available for statewide funds. Once all selections are finalized, VDOT staff will work with applicants to administer funding.

The TPB is currently participating in MDOT's solicitation for FY 2016 TAP projects. The deadline for those applications is May 16.

DDOT intends to issue a solicitation for projects in late spring or early summer.





**Northern Virginia Funding Recommendations  
for the FY 2017 STP Set-Aside**

<b>Applicant Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>FY 2017 Federal Funding Request</b>	<b>CTB District Member Allocations</b>	<b>TPB Review Panel Recommendations</b>
Arlington County	McKinley Road/N Ohio St Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements	\$400,000	\$146,120	\$103,477
Fairfax County	Cinderbed Road Bikeway	\$400,000		\$400,000
Fairfax County	Reston Bikeshare	\$400,000		\$400,000
Fairfax County	Van Dorn Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements	\$400,000		\$400,000
Town of Herndon (Fairfax County)	Van Buren Street Multimodal Improvements Project	\$509,106		\$509,106
National Park Service (Fairfax/Prince William County)	Historic Stone Bridge Rehabilitation	\$460,000	\$230,000	
Town of Round Hill (Loudoun County)	Round Hill Pedestrian Improvements	\$698,443	\$349,221	
Prince William County	Dumfries Rd Sidewalks Project	\$504,937	\$274,659	\$231,926
Prince William County	Horner Road Sidewalks	\$369,886		\$369,886
Prince William County	Opitz Boulevard Sidewalk Project	\$1,000,000		\$500,000
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,914,395</b>

**FY 2017 Transportation Alternatives Program  
for Northern Virginia**

**Northern Virginia TAP Funds Available: \$2,914,395**

Project Name	Jurisdiction	Agency	Description	Funding Request	Local Match	CTB District Funding	TPB Recommended Funding	Regional Activity Center	Transit Station	Safe Routes to School
Mckinley Road/N. Ohio Street SRTS Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements	Arlington County	Arlington County Department of Environmental Services	Construction of raised medians, pedestrian curb extensions, and buffered bike lanes on McKinley Rd/N Ohio St between Wilson Blvd and 11th Rd N. Project will increase access and safety for cyclists and pedestrians to McKinley Elementary School in North Arlington.	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$146,120	\$103,477		East Falls Church	McKinley Elementary School
Historic Stone Bridge Rehabilitation	Fairfax / Prince William County	National Park Service	Completion of the second phase of repairs to the historic Stone Bridge over Bull Run in Manassas Battlefield Park, north of US 29.	\$460,000	\$115,000	\$230,000				
Cinderbed Road Bikeway	Fairfax County	Fairfax County Department of Transportation	Construction of a bikeway from Fort Belvoir to Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station. This project will provide 3.1 miles of off street bike access along a CSX rail line between the Springfield Metrorail Station and Fairfax County Pkwy.	\$400,000	\$100,000		\$400,000	Springfield, Fort Belvoir North area	Springfield Metro/VRE	
Reston Bikeshare	Fairfax County	Fairfax County Department of Transportation	Construction of bikeshare stations, bikes and other facilities for the Town of Reston in Fairfax County in the proximity of the Reston Town Center and Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail stations.	\$400,000	\$100,000		\$400,000	Reston Town Center, Wiehle-Reston East	Reston Town Center, Wiehle-Reston East	
Van Dorn Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvements	Fairfax County	Fairfax County Department of Transportation	Construction of improvements to a 10' shared use path between pedestrian bridge across 95/495 and the South Van Dorn St/Oakwood Rd intersection. The improvements will improve access for cyclists and pedestrians to reach the Van Dorn Metrorail Station.	\$400,000	\$100,000		\$400,000		Van Dorn	
Van Buren Street Multimodal Improvements Project	Fairfax County	Town of Herndon	Construction of Complete Streets improvements along Van Buren Street between Herndon Pkwy and Alabama Drive, including new sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, and bike facilities.	\$509,106	\$127,277		\$509,106	Herndon	Herndon	
Round Hill Pedestrian Improvements	Loudoun County	Town of Round Hill	Design and construction of 1250' of street improvements to Main Street between Loudoun St and High St. Improvements include new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, crosswalks and curb ramps.	\$698,443	\$293,813	\$349,221				
Dumfries Road Sidewalk Project	Prince William County	Prince William County Department of Transportation	Survey, design and construction of 800' of new sidewalk on the east side of Dumfries Rd between Counselor Rd and Taylor Dr, connecting a local mobile home park to the signalized intersection at Dumfries and Counselor.	\$549,318	\$134,650	\$274,659	\$231,926			
Horner Road Sidewalks	Prince William County	Prince William County Department of Transportation	Survey, design and construction of 360' of new sidewalk along Horner Rd from Forest Glen Rd to Kilby Elementary School.	\$369,886	\$92,471		\$369,886			
Opitz Boulevard Sidewalks	Prince William County	Prince William County Department of Transportation	Design and construction of 1300' of new sidewalks along the south side of Opitz Blvd between the I-95 overpass and US Route 1.	\$1,000,000	\$250,824		\$500,000			



# TPB Funding Recommendations

for the FY 2017 STP Set-Aside in Northern Virginia  
\$2,914,395 in funding for eight projects

Town of Herndon -  
Van Buren St  
Multimodal Improvements  
\$509,106

Fairfax County -  
Reston Bikeshare  
\$400,000

Arlington County -  
Safe Routes to School  
McKinley Elementary School  
\$103,377

Fairfax County -  
Van Dorn Bike/Ped  
Improvements  
\$400,000

Fairfax County -  
Cinderbed Road  
Bikeway  
\$400,000

Prince William County -  
Dumfries Road Sidewalks  
\$231,926

Prince William County -  
Horner Road Sidewalks  
\$369,886

Prince William County -  
Opitz Boulevard Sidewalks  
\$500,000

