

## **ITEM 8 – Action**

April 15, 2020

### Approval of FY 2021 TLC Technical Assistance Recipients

**Action:** Approve TLC technical assistance recipients under the FY 2021 TLC Program.

**Background:** The TPB's Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program has provided support to local jurisdictions as they deal with the challenges of integrating land-use and transportation planning at the community level since 2006. Staff solicited applications for the FY 2021 TLC round of technical assistance between January and March 9, 2020. The board will be briefed and asked to approve the applications that are being recommended for funding in FY 2021.





## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board  
**FROM:** John Swanson, Transportation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** FY 2021 Transportation Land-Use Connections Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations  
**DATE:** April 9, 2020

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This memo provides information on the recommendations of the Selection Panel for the FY 2021 round of technical assistance projects under the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program. The panel met the week of March 31 and developed a list of 15 projects recommended for funding in FY 2021. The TPB is scheduled to vote on the panel's recommendations on April 15.

### **FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2021**

A total of \$857,266 will be provided for the TLC Program in FY 2021 through funding in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The TLC Selection Panel recommends the 15 projects listed below for funding. Overall, the projects are highly consistent with key TPB objectives: 13 projects are in or near Activity Centers; 11 projects are in or near Equity Emphasis Areas; 12 projects are in or near high-capacity transit stations; and 8 projects are in or near key regional trails.

Projects recommended for funding:

#### **City of Alexandria – Low-Income Fare Pass Assessment (\$40,000)**

The study will assess the feasibility and impact of a low-income fare pass program. The analysis will consider what a program in Alexandria could look like (i.e., who would receive a discounted fare, the actual discount, any restrictions on hours of service, applicable on DASH and WMATA or just DASH, etc.), the impact on ridership, how the program could be implemented, the costs to the city and how that impacts the city.

#### **Arlington County – Micro-Mobility Transit Hub Prototype (\$40,000)**

This design project will develop plans for a prototype installation of a micro-mobility hub that can be added to high ridership transit stops and stations. The prototype should include parking/docking and battery charging facilities for bikeshare, e-scooters and other shared micro-mobility devices, components for parklets, public art, informational displays, ADA accommodations, and seating/waiting areas for transit passengers.

#### **Arlington County – Curb Space Allocation Spreadsheet Tool (\$50,000)**

The project will develop a sketch-planning spreadsheet tool that will compute the monetized societal benefits of various curb allocation scenarios. The user will enter the current curb space allocation, as well as inputs to include observed traffic volumes, transit passenger volumes, and fronting land uses. Outputs will help planners make decisions on curb space allocation at a block level.

**Fairfax County – Fairfax County Parkway Trail and Cross County Trail Connection (\$67,266)**

The Fairfax County Parkway Trail runs for 28 miles through communities from Reston to Lorton, while the Cross County Trail runs for over 40 miles through Regional Activity Centers including Annandale and Fairfax. The county seeks assistance to design a shared use path connection between these two trails, to improve a gap where pedestrians currently travel in a narrow roadway.

**City of Fairfax – Fairfax Circle Visioning and Multimodal Intersection Alternatives Development (\$60,000)**

This project will develop a vision and feasible design alternatives for Fairfax Circle (the intersection of Route 50 and Route 29). This non-traditional "hamburger roundabout" is at the center of the Fairfax Circle Activity Center and is approximately one mile from Metro's Orange Line. This intersection is also the city's northern gateway and is a critical transportation hub. Developing a vision and design alternatives for this intersection are important steps in supporting the ongoing redevelopment of this area into a transit-friendly and walkable mixed-use activity center.

**Town of Herndon (Fairfax County) – Shared Micromobility Feasibility Study (\$50,000)**

The study will analyze current trends and future needs in shared micromobility (i.e., Capital Bikeshare, e-bikes, scooters, and potentially other devices) specific to the Town of Herndon, and provide implementation recommendations for a shared micromobility system that best connects those working, living, and visiting Herndon to transit, trails, and activity centers.

**Prince William County – Peak Hour Express Bus and HOV Lanes Feasibility Study (\$40,000)**

The project will determine the feasibility of dedicated express bus/High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes during peak hours along Dale Boulevard that would connect Prince William Small Area Plans to transit hubs and Regional Activity Centers along the I-95 corridor.

**City of Bowie – Feasibility Study for Pedestrian Overpass over Maryland Route 214 (\$30,000)**

The proposed crossing would be a crucial segment of The Bowie Byway recommended in the city's Trails Master Plan and the Countywide Master Plan trail shown the 2006 Bowie and Vicinity Master Plan (Collington Branch Stream Valley Trail). It will link the neighborhoods of Ternberry and Collington Ridge and South Lake to the Pointer Ridge neighborhood and the Hall Road transit hub and public library.

**City of Frederick – Rails with Trails Phase 3 Bypass Design (\$80,000)**

The Bypass will connect an existing shared-use path through the Clemson Corner neighborhood with the northern end of the shared-use path now undergoing final design and construction ("Phase 2"). East Street Rails with Trails will create a north-south bicycling spine for the City of Frederick connecting its downtown MARC station with neighborhoods and regional shopping destinations to its north before continuing beyond to the town of Walkersville.

**Montgomery County – Visually Impaired Urban Navigation Study and Pilot Design (\$80,000)**

The Visually Impaired Urban Navigation Study and Pilot Design will make recommendations on which technologies and design standards should be applied to support safe navigation by blind and low vision pedestrians to and from transit in dense urban areas of Montgomery County. The pilot component of the project will develop designs for 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Silver Spring between the Sarbanes Transit Center and Spring Road.

**Prince George’s County – Cool Spring and Adelphi Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvement Project (\$80,000)**

There is a lack of infrastructure to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian connection between the Cool Spring Neighborhood and the Purple Line station at the University of Maryland Campus. The project will develop a concept design and 30% design documents for a separated pedestrian/bicycle facility along Cool Springs Road and a crossing at Adelphi Road.

**Prince George’s County – Riggs Road Neighborhood Bicycle Boulevards Project - \$80,000**

This project will develop 30% engineering plans for bicycle lanes and shared use roads on several local streets in the Langley Park area. The project will greatly improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the future Purple Line station.

**City of Takoma Park – Maple Avenue Complete Street Design (60,000)**

Maple Avenue is a well-traveled neighborhood street connecting residents and visitors to schools, jobs, housing and recreation, while also providing linkages to the Takoma Metro station and the Sligo Creek Trail. This TLC project will redesign Maple Avenue as a complete street which prioritizes pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users in order to provide safer, more convenient, and more comfortable travel for all users.

**District of Columbia – North Capitol Cloverleaf Urbanization Study: Replacing Highways with Human Scale Infrastructure (\$60,000)**

The project will provide intersection analysis for retrofitting the North Capitol and Irving Street Cloverleaf interchange (Cloverleaf) into a pair of two connections between the grade separated roadways with four new signalized intersections.

**District of Columbia – Independence Avenue SW Transportation Assessment (\$40,000)**

Local and federal agencies are collaborating to improve connectivity, multi-modal use (walking, biking, transit, and curbside uses), safety, and the quality of the pedestrian experience traversing north-south between the National Mall and the SW waterfront and neighborhoods, and east-west along Independence Avenue SW.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

On January 13, 2020, the TPB issued a call for projects for the FY 2021 round of TLC technical assistance. The deadline for application submissions was March 9, 2020. Applicants were invited to submit optional abstracts which provided applicants an interim opportunity for TPB staff to review project concepts and to provide feedback on how to develop stronger TLC applications.

As in past years, technical assistance was again offered in amounts between \$30,000 and \$60,000 for planning projects, and up to \$80,000 for 30% design projects. The Call for Projects and application placed a focus on TPB priorities, including the aspirational initiatives included in Visualize 2045.

The TPB received 21 applications for FY 2021. Total requested funding for the entire application package was \$1,280,000.

For this application cycle, \$857,266 is available. This includes four funding sources:

- \$260,000 from the TPB's FY 2019 UPWP core regional planning funds, where all projects are eligible;
- \$260,000 from the Maryland UPWP Technical Assistance account for projects from Maryland;
- \$160,000 from the Virginia UPWP Technical Assistance account for projects from Virginia; and
- \$177,266 from the Regional Transit Technical Assistance account in the UPWP for projects that meet certain specific criteria.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The selection panel included the following members:

- Chair: Julia Koster, TPB Member; National Capital Planning Commission
- Deborah Bilek, Urban Land Institute
- Jonathan Esslinger, American Society of Civil Engineers
- Michael Farrell, COG/TPB
- Claire Randall, Transportation Research Board
- Jaleel Reed, COG
- Lee Schoenecker, APA Regional and Intergovernmental Committee
- John Swanson, COG/TPB

The selection panel met on March 31 and on April 2 to review the project applications and develop a list of recommended projects for the FY 2021 round of TLC technical assistance. The selection panel used established regional evaluation criteria and their own extensive industry knowledge to assess the proposed projects. The selection panel members individually reviewed and scored each application in advance based on their assessments of the projects as well as regional criteria. The panel members then used their scores to divide the applications in rankings of high/medium/low. The rankings served as a starting point for the panel's collective discussion.

After discussion of the regional and local merits of each project, the selection panel developed a list of 15 projects to recommend to the TPB for approval. The panel endorses these projects as the most locally and regionally beneficial. The panel strives to balance the TPB's portion of funding between the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, while also attempting to create a slate of projects that addresses regional priorities across a diversity of topics affecting core, inner, and outer jurisdictions.

In some cases, the panel chose to award funding at lower levels than the applications requested. These changes were made in accordance with information on scalability provided in the applications. In other cases, the panel provided guidance regarding the scopes for specific projects.

As described above, TLC funding is derived from four separate sources and each source has different conditions attached to it. The Core UPWP funding is intended for all the jurisdictions to share. Technical assistance funding for Maryland and Virginia can only be used for projects in their respective states.

The Regional Transit Technical Assistance account from the UPWP was a new source of TLC funding for this year. Working with WMATA, staff established criteria for how these funds might be used in the TLC context. These criteria included the following conditions for eligibility: 1) projects must enhance ped/bike access to high-capacity transit and 2) projects must fund design work (up to 30%) for projects that are ready to move toward construction or implementation.

Based on these criteria, TPB staff determined that six applications were eligible to receive funding from the Regional Transit Technical Assistance account. The TLC Selection Panel is recommending that the following three projects receive funding from this account:

- Arlington County – Micro-Mobility Transit Hub Prototype
- Montgomery County – Visually Impaired Urban Navigation Study and Pilot Design
- Prince George’s County – Riggs Road Neighborhood Bicycle Boulevards Project

## **PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE**

On April 15, 2020, the TPB will be asked to approve the proposed slate of 15 projects for completion under the FY 2021 TLC technical assistance program. Upon approval of the projects, TPB staff will begin to coordinate with the jurisdictions that have been awarded technical assistance to commence the consultant selection process from the pre-qualified list of TLC consultants. All projects will begin soon after consultant contracts are signed. The projects will be scheduled for completion by June 30, 2021.

For further questions regarding the TLC program, contact John Swanson ([jswanson@mwkog.org](mailto:jswanson@mwkog.org); 202-962-3295) or Jaleel Reed ([jreed@mwkog.org](mailto:jreed@mwkog.org); 202-962-3321).







# TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE CONNECTIONS

## FY 2021 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

John Swanson  
Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board  
April 15, 2020



National Capital Region  
Transportation Planning Board

Agenda Item #8

# Background on the TLC Program

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- Began in 2006
  - 130 Technical Assistance projects funded for more than \$5 million between 2007-2020
- Promotes TPB policy objectives:
  - Multimodal transportation options
  - Land-use enhancements in activity centers and around high-capacity transit stations
  - Access for low-income and minority communities
  - Access to transit
  - Key regional trails



# Program Components

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- TLC Technical Assistance
  - Planning and design projects
  - Small (\$30,000-\$80,000)
  - Short-term (8-9 months)
  - Cover a range of issues, including ped/bike planning, corridor and small area planning, and development of analytical tools
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside
  - Focused on capital improvements
  - \$5-6 million per year
  - Collaboration with state DOTs in allocating federal funding



# Funding for Technical Assistance in FY21

- Total funding for FY 2021: \$857,266
  - *Core Regional Funds*: \$260,000 – All projects are eligible
  - *Maryland Technical Assistance*: \$260,000 – Maryland projects are eligible
  - *Virginia Technical Assistance*: \$160,000 – Virginia projects are eligible
  - *NEW THIS YEAR: Regional Transit Technical Assistance*: \$177,266 – Projects that meet specific criteria are eligible:
    - Must enhance ped/bike access to high-capacity transit
    - Must fund design work (up to 30%) for projects ready to move toward construction/implementation



# Solicitation

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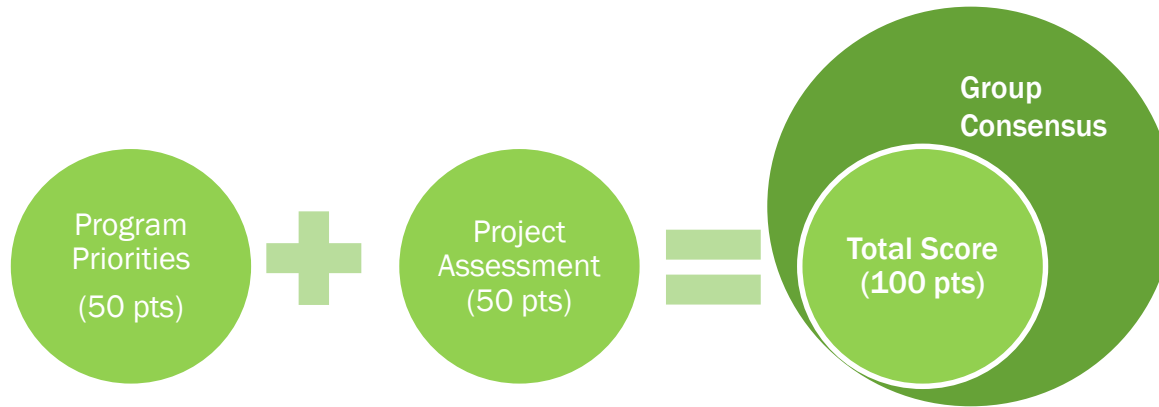
- Application solicitation period: January 13–March 9, 2020
  - Optional Abstracts were due January 27
- 21 applications were received
  - 3 applications from the District of Columbia, 7 from Maryland, and 11 from Virginia
  - Total of \$1,280,000 in requested funding



# Selection

- Panel
  - Chaired by TPB member Julia Koster, NCPC
  - American Society of Civil Engineers, Urban Land Institute, American Planning Association, Transportation Research Board, TPB staff

- Evaluation



- Panel seeks to fund a variety of types of projects, provide regional value, and reflect geographic balance among projects
- Final recommendations based on consensus

# Recommended Projects

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- Total funding: \$857,266
- 15 applications recommended
  - 13 projects – in/near Activity Centers
  - 11 projects – in/near Equity Emphasis Areas
  - 12 projects – in/near high-capacity transit stations
  - 8 projects – on/near key regional trails



# FY 2021 Draft Recommendations

Alexandria, City of	Alexandria Low Income Fare Pass Assessment	40,000
Arlington County	Micro-Mobility Transit Hub Prototype	40,000
Arlington County	Curb Space Allocation Spreadsheet Tool	50,000
Fairfax County	Fairfax County Parkway Trail and Cross County Trail Connection	67,266
Fairfax, City of	Fairfax Circle Visioning and Multimodal Intersection Alternatives Development	60,000
Herndon, Town of	Shared Micromobility Feasibility Study	50,000
Prince William County	Peak Hour Express Bus and HOV Lanes Feasibility Study	40,000

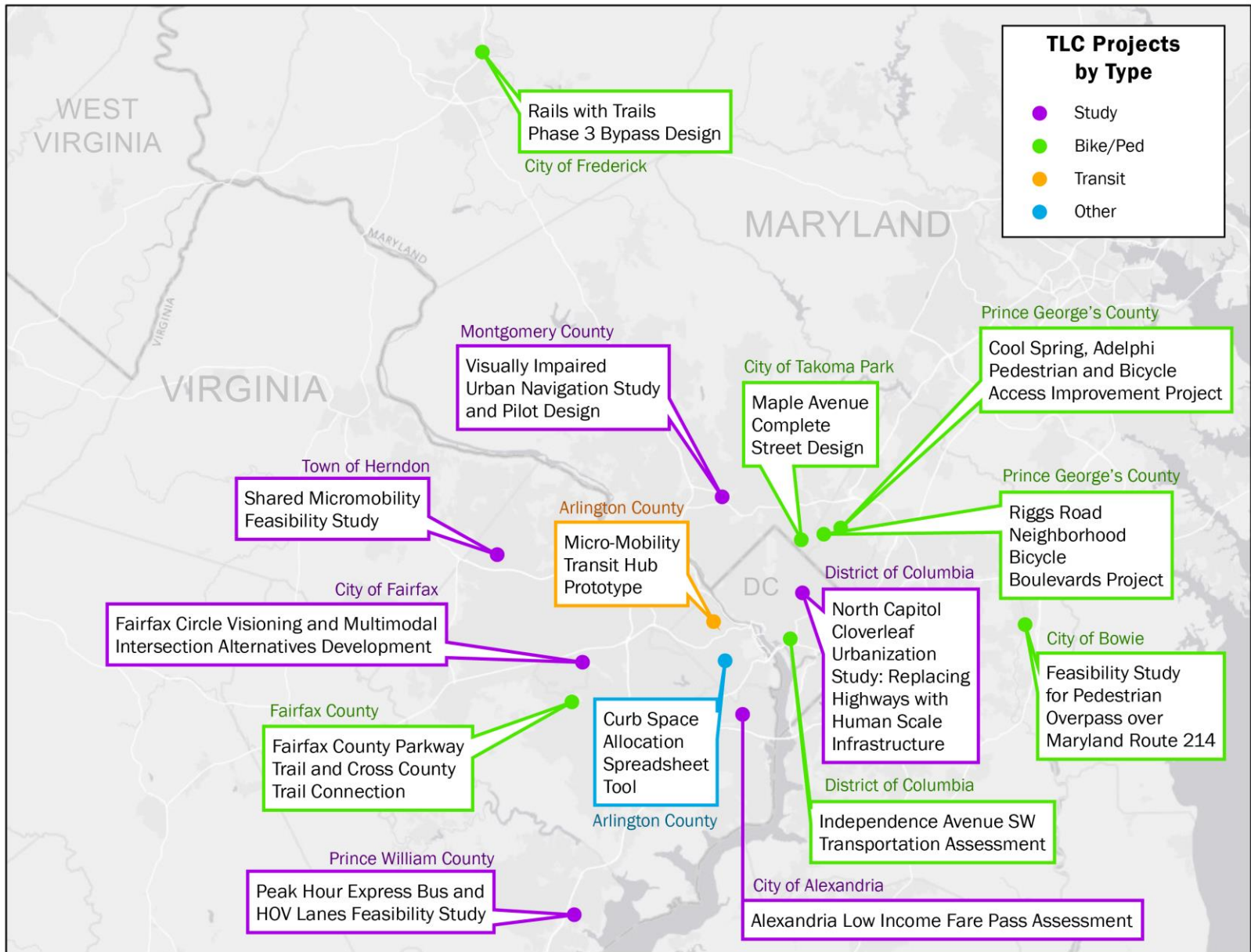




# FY 2021 Draft Recommendations

Bowie, City of	Feasibility Study for Pedestrian Overpass over Maryland Route 214	30,000
Frederick, City of	Rails with Trails Phase 3 Bypass Design	80,000
Montgomery County	Visually Impaired Urban Navigation Study and Pilot Design	80,000
Prince George's County	Cool Spring, Adelphi Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvement Project	80,000
Prince George's County	Riggs Road Neighborhood Bicycle Boulevards Project	80,000
Takoma Park, City of	Maple Avenue Complete Street Design	60,000
District of Columbia	North Capitol Cloverleaf Urbanization Study: Replacing Highways with Human Scale Infrastructure	60,000
District of Columbia	Independence Avenue SW Transportation Assessment	40,000





# Details from a few examples...



# Fairfax Circle Visioning and Alternatives Development

The project will develop a vision and feasible design alternatives for the “hamburger roundabout” at Fairfax Circle (the intersection of Route 50 and Route 29). Project will support ongoing redevelopment of this area into a transit-friendly and walkable mixed-use activity center.



# Montgomery County Visually Impaired Navigation Study and Pilot Design

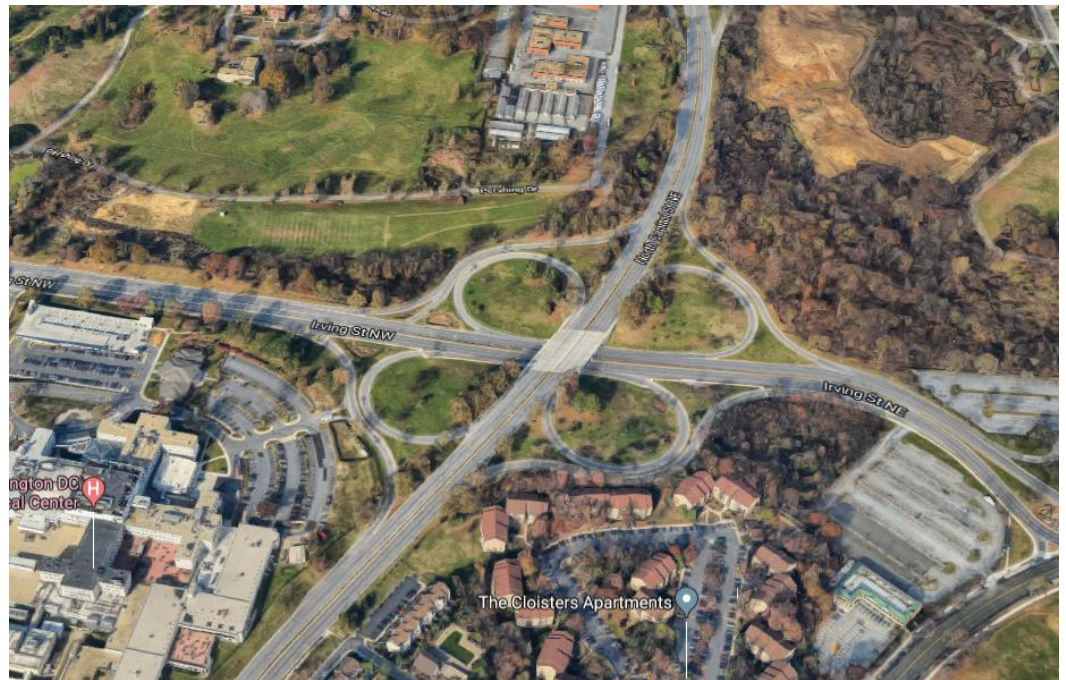
The project will make recommendations on which technologies and design standards should be applied to support safe navigation by blind and low vision pedestrians to and from transit in dense urban areas of Montgomery County





# North Capitol Cloverleaf Urbanization Study

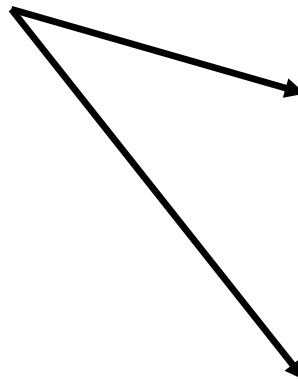
The project will provide intersection analysis for retrofitting the North Capitol and Irving Street Cloverleaf interchange into a pair of two connections between the grade separated roadways with four new signalized intersections



# Transit Access Funding

Three projects will be funded with the Regional Transit Technical Assistance funds:

- Prince George's County -- Riggs Road Area Bicycle Boulevards (Purple Line)
- Montgomery County -- Visually Impaired Navigation (Silver Spring Metro Transit Center)
- Arlington County Micromobility Hub Prototype (Metro station TBD)



# Next Steps

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- Seek TPB approval of project recommendations at meeting on April 15
- Begin consultant selection process in May





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National Capital Region  
**Transportation Planning Board**