



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Safety Subcommittee
FROM: Jon Schermann, TPB Systems Performance Analysis Manager
SUBJECT: Regional Safety Program: Update
DATE: February 9, 2021

The application period for the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Regional Safety Program (Program) is now open. Member jurisdictions or agencies have until March 22, 2021 to submit their applications. The Regional Safety Program was formally established by the TPB as part of Resolution R3-2021 adopted on July 22, 2020.

DESCRIPTION

The Regional Safety Program provides short-term consultant services to individual member jurisdictions to assist with planning or preliminary engineering projects that address roadway safety issues. Examples include studies, planning, or design projects that will improve roadway safety and lead to a reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes on the region's roadways. The program provides consultant assistance of up to \$60,000 for studies or planning projects, and up to \$80,000 for design or preliminary engineering projects.

FUNDING

The Regional Safety Program is funded at \$250,000 for fiscal year 2021. It is anticipated that similar levels of funding will be provided in future fiscal years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Any TPB member jurisdiction or agency that is a member of the Transportation Planning Board is eligible to apply. Projects are eligible to receive up to \$60,000 in assistance for studies or planning projects and up to \$80,000 for design or preliminary engineering projects. Recipients will receive short-term consultant services. They will not receive direct financial assistance.

The FY 2021 application period is now open. Member jurisdictions or agencies have until March 22, 2021 to submit their applications. Potential applicants may also submit an optional abstract by February 12, 2021. TPB staff will provide feedback on the abstracts approximately one week after submittal.

A panel of consisting of safety experts will review the application submissions and recommend projects to the TPB for funding. The panel's recommendations will represent a cross-section of jurisdictions throughout the region. The TPB is anticipated to approve the applications in May or June of 2021.

Selection Panel Composition

The selection panel will consist of one TPB staff member, one Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) safety representative, and a safety representative from each member state.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The TPB encourages applications that address one or more of these regional safety priorities at the community level:

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS FOR LOW-INCOME AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The TPB has identified Equity Emphasis Areas with concentrations of low-income and minority populations. The Regional Safety Program encourages applications focused on reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries in these areas.

IMPROVING ROAD USER BEHAVIOR

The Regional Safety Program seeks projects that increase seat belt use among motor vehicle occupants, reduce unsafe vehicle speeds, reduce impaired and distracted driving, and otherwise improve road user behavior.

IDENTIFYING AND DESIGNING SAFETY COUNTERMEASURES

The Regional Safety Program seeks projects that and design applicable countermeasures especially those outlined in TPB Resolution R3-2021, as appropriate and on a case by case basis.

UNDERSTANDING SAFETY DATA

The Regional Safety Program seeks projects to analyze crash data to better understand jurisdictional- or community-level roadway safety issues and identify behavioral and/or infrastructure countermeasures to address them.

CROSS JURISDICTIONAL SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The Regional Safety Program encourages cross jurisdictional and multi-agency cooperation to improve roadway safety.

STUDIES AND PLANNING PROJECTS (UP TO \$60,000 IN FUNDING)

The TPB encourages planning projects that lead to reductions in fatal and serious injury crashes, improved jurisdictional safety planning capacity, and support the goals outlined in the regional safety resolution R3-2021. Projects may include (but are not limited to):

- Support for local roadway safety plans
- Road Safety Audits
- Crash data analysis
- Jurisdictional efforts to leverage the “Street Smart” program
- Identification of jurisdictional “high injury networks”

DESIGN (UP TO \$80,000 IN FUNDING)

Design projects can cover any of the planning project categories and should have undergone a local planning process. Projects should be ready for focused design or preliminary engineering work. Regional Safety Program funds can help projects reach up to 30 percent design completion or make progress toward that phase of project development. Project categories may include (but are not limited to):

- Road diet design
- Lighting and signage improvements
- Intersection improvements
- Enhanced pedestrian infrastructure

CONTRACTING

To minimize the time required to get consultants under contract, TPB staff, with the COG contracts office, will develop master contracts with select consultant firms. The intent is to prequalify a set of consultant firms to do the work coming out of the Program. Once projects are approved by the TPB the preapproved consultants would submit proposals. The selected firm, who would already be under a master contract, would be authorized to execute the project as a task order.

FIRST YEAR (PILOT) TIMELINE

- Solicit applications: January 19, 2021 through March 22, 2021
- Optional abstracts due: February 12, 2021
- Selection panel recommendations: April-May 2021
- TPB approves projects: May or June 2021
- Consultant selection: June-July 2021
- Contract award: June-July 2021

DRAFT FUTURE YEAR (REGULAR PROGRAM) TIMELINE

- Solicit applications: April through May
- Selection panel recommendations: June-July
- TPB approves projects: July or September
- Consultant selection: August-October
- Contract award: Fall