

## **ITEM 12 - Action**

July 15, 2009

### Approval of Technical Assistance Recipients Under the FY 2010 Transportation/Land Use Connection (TLC) Program

#### **Staff**

#### **Recommendation:**

- Receive briefing on the TLC applications received by the due date of May 18, and on the TLC technical assistance recipients that have been recommended for funding by a technical review committee.
- Approve the recommended FY 2010 TLC technical assistance recipients.

#### **Issues:**

None

#### **Background:**

At the February 16, 2009 meeting, the Board approved releasing the Call for Project Applications for the FY 2010 TLC program. During February, the TLC brochure and application form were distributed to TPB member jurisdictions inviting applications for short-term technical assistance to advance their transportation and land use coordination activities. On March 16 a pre-application conference was held. The review committee is chaired by Ms. Koster, TPB member representing the National Capital Planning Commission.

# **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board

**FROM:** John Swanson, Senior Transportation Planner  
Department of Transportation Planning

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Projects for the FY 2010 Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Technical Assistance Program and Proposed Timeline for FY 2010 Project Completion

**DATE:** July 7, 2009

The Transportation Planning Board will be asked at its July 15 meeting to approve the slate of projects listed below as part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program's FY2010 round of technical assistance. This memorandum presents a brief summary of the FY 2010 TLC application and project selection process.

## **PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The TLC selection panel has recommended a list of seven projects for TPB approval on July 15:

### *District of Columbia*

- **Independent Shuttle Bus Consolidation Strategy (ISBC) for the Greater Brookland Community (\$25,000)**  
This project will develop a consolidation strategy that will both address the operational issues posed by the current arrangement and improve mobility and access to Metro. Streamlining various existing shuttle services will reduce operations costs, decrease vehicular traffic, and encourage Metro transit use by improving shuttle service. This project is supported by the District of Columbia Office of Planning.
- **Golden Triangle Business Improvement District Design Standards (\$30,000)**  
This project will evaluate and refine previously-developed draft streetscape guidelines developed by the BID. Implementation strategies will also be recommended. Enhanced design standards will serve to create a cohesive feel for the neighborhood. Low Impact Development (LID) techniques will be an integral part of this project. The project is supported by the District Department of Transportation.

## *Maryland*

- **Charles County, Waldorf Urban Transportation Improvement Plan (\$30,000)**  
This project involves assessing a proposed conceptual transportation network and determining an implementation plan for public and private investment for construction. By reviewing the layout, functionality, and interconnectivity of all transportation modes, the County hopes to create a completely integrated transportation network capable of sustaining a walkable community.
- **Prince George's County, Purple Line Bicycle Access and Bicycle Hub Location Study (\$30,000)**  
This study will identify locations for bikeway and sidewalk locations along the entire segment of the Purple Line in Prince George's County. The project seeks to identify complete streets components for the areas surrounding future transit stations. The study will result in better and safer bicycle and pedestrian access to future transit-oriented development locations adjacent to the Purple Line.

## *Virginia*

- **Arlington County, Multi-Use Trail Traffic Control Study (\$30,000)**  
This project will analyze traffic control signage, markings and signals on two of Arlington's busiest shared-use trails and propose modifications to create a more consistent, rational, predictable and ultimately safer traffic control environment for all trail users and those crossing the trails. Rationalizing how cyclists and pedestrians are supposed to behave at multi-use trail intersections will improve these locations' safety and will reinforce positive bicycle and pedestrian behavior on and off the trails. This project will be utilized by transportation engineers to better design Arlington's non-motorized facilities. The project involves close coordination between Arlington's BIKEArlington and WALKArlington programs.
- **Fairfax County (\$45,000)**  
This TLC project will use a multi-modal evaluation tool, previously developed for a TLC project for the Takoma neighborhood of Washington DC, to evaluate an array of potential projects to accommodate the mobility the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, local bus, and auto users at the new Metrorail Station at Wiehle Avenue in Reston.
- **Prince William County, Harbor Station Multimodal Commuter Station (\$30,000)**  
This study will serve as a follow up to the Commuter Ferry Feasibility Study, currently being conducted by Prince William County, through a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Multimodal Grant. The study will examine the possibilities of creating a multimodal commuter center served by commuter rail, bus and ferry services around a planned mixed-use development. This project will involve close coordination with PRTC, VDOT and VRE.

## **TLC BACKGROUND**

The TPB initiated the TLC Program in 2007 to provide support to local jurisdictions as they deal with the challenges of integrating land-use and transportation planning at the community level. There are two major components to the TLC Program: The Regional Clearinghouse, which promotes region-wide information-sharing, and the Technical Assistance Program, which provides targeted, short-term planning assistance to the TPB's member jurisdictions.

At the close of the FY 2009 round of the TLC technical assistance program, the TPB will have largely completed 29 technical assistance projects in 16 jurisdictions; four projects in the District of Columbia, 14 projects in Maryland, and 11 in Virginia. For more information, please visit the TLC website at [www.mwcog.org/tlc](http://www.mwcog.org/tlc) and click on "Completed Projects" under Technical Assistance Program.

Prior to the FY2009 round, all technical assistance projects were funded at \$20,000. For the FY 2009 program, the TPB approved an amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to restructure the program to provide a range of funding for each project between \$10,000 and \$60,000. For the first time, a selection panel was used for the FY2009 round of technical assistance to develop a list of project recommendations.

Projects completed or currently underway are summarized in Attachment A.

## **SELECTION PROCESS FOR FY 2010 PROJECTS**

On March 16, 2009, the TPB issued a call for projects for the FY 2010 round of TLC technical assistance. The deadline for application submissions was May 18, 2009. At the behest of the TPB Technical Committee, TPB staff conducted a pre-application workshop on March 16 to provide potential applicants with useful information about the program.

For this application cycle, \$220,000 from the TPB's FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is available for technical assistance projects. In addition, MDOT committed \$100,000 from their technical assistance account for projects in Maryland, with special emphasis on projects relating to transit-oriented development (TOD). For the FY 2010 round, applicants could again request technical assistance in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000, with the potential for scaling applications.

The TPB received 13 applications from a diverse array of TPB member jurisdictions: the District of Columbia submitted three applications; Maryland jurisdictions submitted three applications; and Virginia jurisdictions submitted seven applications. The applications represented a variety of topics from technical analyses to visioning studies and ranged from requests for \$25,000 to \$60,000. A brief description of all applications may be found in Attachment B.

The selection process for the FY 2010 projects mirrored the process used in FY 2009.

The following experts participated on the selection panel:

- **Julia Koster**, Chair of selection panel; Non-voting TPB Member; Director, Planning, Research, and Policy Division, National Capital Planning Commission
- **Kim Fisher**, Associate Director, Technical Activities Division, Transportation Research Board
- **Rob Mandle**, Operations Director, Crystal City Business Improvement District; Board Member, National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association
- **Joel Mills**, Director, Communities by Design, The American Institute of Architects

The selection panel met on June 19, 2009, to review the projects and develop a list of recommended projects for the FY 2010 round of TLC technical assistance. The selection panel used evaluation criteria and their own extensive industry knowledge to provide insight on the projects. TPB staff provided an overview of previous rounds of the TLC Technical Assistance Program and was available to answer questions. The selection panel reviewed each application and divided the projects into low-, medium-, and high-priorities for the TLC Program.

Based upon its deliberations, the TLC selection panel has recommended a list of seven projects for TPB approval on July 15. The total cost of these projects is \$220,000, which is the amount allocated in funding from the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) under the FY 2010 TLC Technical Assistance Program.

The selection panel will reconvene in August 2009 to discuss applications received for projects in Maryland that will be funded with the additional \$100,000 made available through the MDOT technical assistance account in the UPWP.

## **PROPOSED TIMELINE**

On July 15, the TPB will be asked to approve the proposed slate of projects utilizing UPWP funding under the FY 2010 TLC technical assistance program. On September 16, the TPB will be asked to approve projects in Maryland utilizing additional funding provided from Maryland's technical assistance account in the UPWP. Upon approval of the projects, TPB staff will begin coordination with the recipients to select consultants for the projects from the pre-qualified list of TLC consultants. The target date for completion of the projects is April 30, 2010.

Later in the fiscal year, staff will conduct a thorough review of the TLC program. This evaluation will comprehensively examine all the projects funded through the program to date, identifying common themes and lessons that might be further developed and shared on a regional basis. This review will also examine recent changes in the structure and administration of the technical assistance program. Suggestions and proposed enhancements will be considered for future rounds of technical assistance.