

ITEM 8 – Action
April 20, 2016

Approval of Projects Recommended for Funding Under the
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Set Aside for FY 2017 in
Virginia

Staff

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution

Issues: None

Background: A portion of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP Set Aside) funds for Virginia is sub-allocated to the TPB for project selection in Northern Virginia. At the April 20 meeting the Board will be briefed on the projects recommended by a technical review panel for funding as part of the FY 2017 STP Aside project solicitation conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and asked to approve the recommended projects.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Lamont B. Cobb, TPB Transportation Planner
John Swanson, TPB Plan Development and Support Manager
SUBJECT: Project Recommendations for FY 2017 Surface Transportation Block Grant Set Aside Funds for Northern Virginia TPB Jurisdictions
DATE: April 20, 2016

The selection panel convened on behalf of the TPB recommends the Board approve the following transportation alternatives projects in Northern Virginia for funding under the Commonwealth of Virginia’s FY 2017 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Set Aside program (STP Set Aside). This program was previously known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The STP Set Aside allocated \$2,914,395 in funds for Northern Virginia. Upon the TPB’s approval the projects will be forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for formal adoption and execution of the funds with the jurisdictional agency.

1	McKinley Road/N Ohio St Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements	Arlington County	\$103,477
2	Cinderbed Road Bikeway	Fairfax County	\$400,000
3	Reston Bikeshare	Fairfax County	\$400,000
4	Van Dorn Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements	Fairfax County	\$400,000
5	Van Buren Street Multimodal Improvements Project	Town of Herndon (Fairfax County)	\$509,106
6	Dumfries Rd Sidewalks Project	Prince William County	\$231,926
7	Horner Road Sidewalks	Prince William County	\$369,886
8	Opitz Boulevard Sidewalk Project	Prince William County	\$500,000
Total:			\$2,914,395

Resolution R13-2016 to fund the STP Set Aside projects in TPB Virginia jurisdictions is attached for the Board’s consideration.

Background

The Transportation Alternatives Program was a MAP-21 formula program that provided funding to projects “alternative” to traditional highway capacity expansion. MAP-21 specified that in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, a portion of the TAP funds provided to the states were to be set aside for the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to, “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 projects eligible for these funds, the funding formulas and the level of MPO involvement remain unchanged from the TAP under MAP-21. The FAST Act provides funding for the STP Set Aside for five years (FY 2016 through FY 2020).

For the TPB as the National Capital Region’s MPO, the program offers an opportunity to support implementation of projects that serve as alternatives to motorized travel. At the direction of the Board, our region’s STP Set Aside fund is framed as a complementary component of the TPB’s Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, which provides technical assistance to TPB member jurisdictions for small planning studies.

The funding offers the region the ability to 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 bicycle and pedestrian 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 Projects

VDOT conducted the combined 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.

Virginia conducts a three-part process for project selection:

1. The Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board’s district members (representing the VDOT district) select projects for a specific portion of the statewide STP Set Aside funds;

2. The MPOs select projects for their portion of sub-allocated STP Set Aside;
3. The remaining (at-large) members of the CTB collectively select projects for the remainder of the statewide STP Set Aside funds.

In case of Northern Virginia the MPO sub-allocated funds for the TPB is \$2,914,395; the Northern Virginia representative to the CTB (Mr. Gary Garczynski) has \$1 million allocated to his district.

For Northern Virginia, a total of 15 applications were received for \$7,658,033 in requested funding. The selection panel has recommended funding eight of these projects. Projects not recommended or recommended for partially funding by the TPB are still eligible for the statewide portion of STP Set Aside funding decided by the at-large CTB members. Mr. Garczynski announced his project selections in early March. 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.

The review panel recommended eight projects for funding. Mr. Rice was unexpectedly unable to participate in the panel meeting, but he 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 remaining statewide STP Set Aside funding. The CTB has \$1.7 million remaining in 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 application deadline is May 16.

DDOT intends to issue a solicitation for projects later this summer.

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

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	FY 2017 Federal Funding Request	CTB District Member Allocations	TPB Review Panel Recommendations
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
		TOTAL:	\$1,000,000	\$2,914,395

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE FY 2017
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM SET ASIDE IN
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing American's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, under the FAST Act's Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Set Aside (STP Set Aside) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a portion of funding based on the relative share of the total State population is sub-allocated to large urbanized areas and the MPO is required "to develop a competitive process to allow eligible entities to submit projects for funding ... in consultation with the relevant State"; and

WHEREAS, the STP Set Aside provides funding for transportation programs and projects defined as eligible per Section 1109 of the FAST Act; and

WHEREAS, the STP Set Aside offers an opportunity to fund projects that implement regional priorities and complement planning activities such as the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, which promotes improved non-motorized circulation within Regional Activity Centers and improved pedestrian and bicycle access to transit; and

WHEREAS, the STP Set Aside is 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; and

WHEREAS, a solicitation for STP Set Aside projects was conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation from August 1 through November 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the TPB's STP Set Aside Review Panel met on March 25, 2016 and recommended fully or partially funding eight of the applications received based on project readiness and eligibility and each project's ability to meet the regional selection criteria; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2016, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the recommended projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD approves the projects for funding under the STP Set Aside for FY 2017 in Northern Virginia as described in the attached materials.

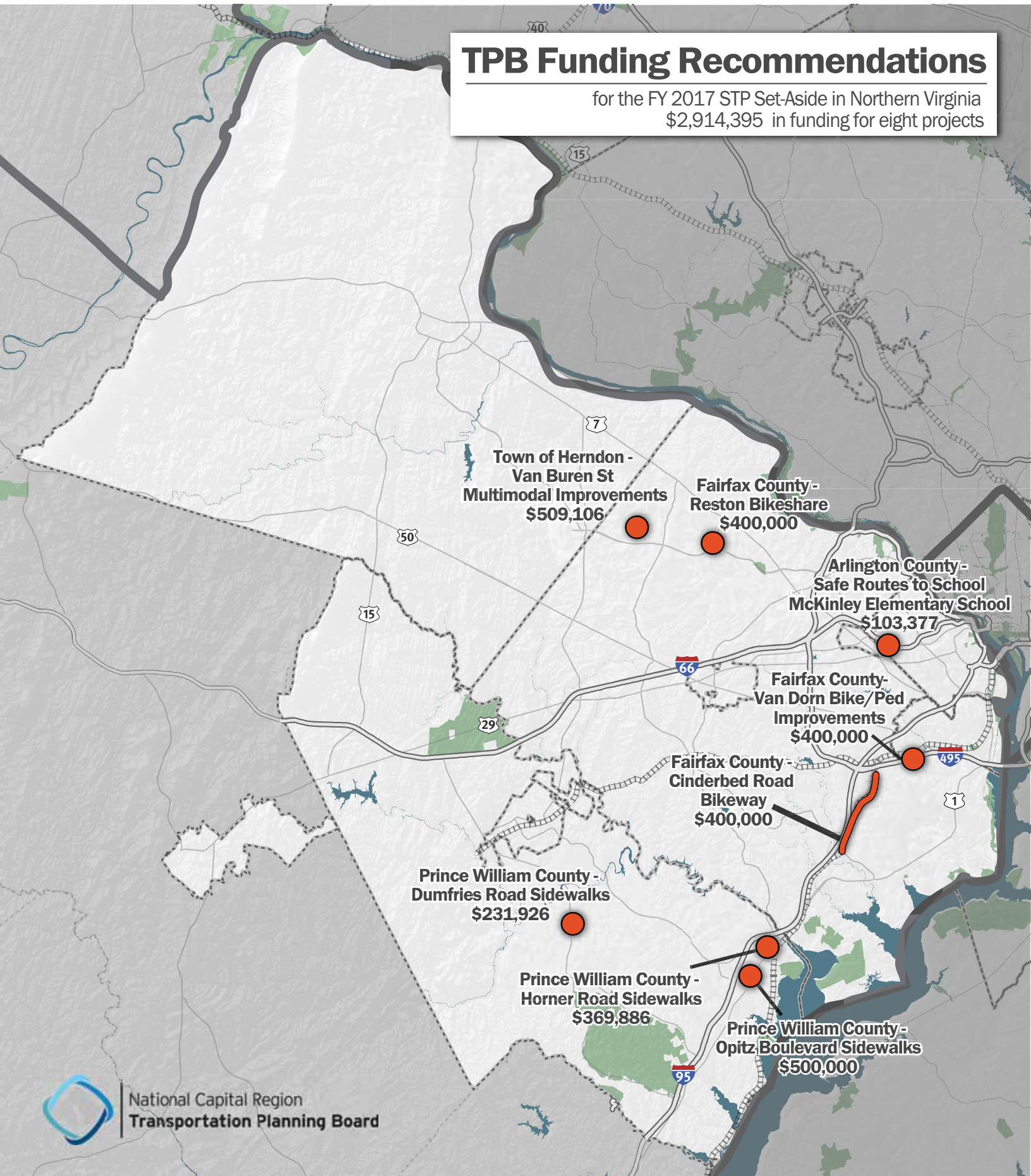
**FY 2017 Transportation Alternatives Program
for Northern Virginia**

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



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board