

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby,
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Approved Projects for the FY 2009 Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Technical Assistance Program, Timeline for FY 2010 Project Solicitation

DATE: March 3, 2009

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) initiated the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (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.

At the close of the FY 2008 round of the TLC technical assistance program, the TPB has completed 21 technical assistance projects in 15 jurisdictions; three projects were completed in the District of Columbia and nine projects were completed in both Maryland and Virginia. For more information about completed projects, please visit the TLC website at www.mwcog.org/tlc and click on “Completed Projects” under Technical Assistance Program.

This memorandum presents a brief summary of the projects approved by the TPB on February 18, 2009, for inclusion in the FY 2009 round of TLC technical assistance. It also presents a schedule for the FY 2010 project solicitation.

FY 2009 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

APPLICATION PROCESS

On October 15, 2008, the TPB issued a call for projects for the FY 2009 round of TLC technical assistance. The deadline for application submission was December 19, 2008. For the FY 2009 program, the TPB approved an amendment to the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to restructure technical assistance project funding to be provided in amounts from \$10,000 to \$60,000, with the potential for scaling applications to provide the greatest benefit for all applicants. The TPB received 15 applications from a diverse array of TPB member jurisdictions: the District of Columbia submitted one

application; Maryland jurisdictions submitted nine applications; and Virginia jurisdictions submitted five applications.

At the time of the solicitation, a minimum of \$180,000 from the TPB was to be made available for technical assistance projects for the FY 2009 application cycle. In addition, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) committed \$80,000 from its Technical Assistance fund in the FY 2009 UPWP to be used for additional TLC projects in Maryland during this cycle.

FY 2009 TLC PROJECTS

The selection panel convened by the TPB recommended that the following projects be included in the FY 2009 round of TLC technical assistance. The TPB approved this slate of projects on February 18, 2009.

District of Columbia

- **NoMa Business Improvement District Gateway Transportation Enhancement Project (\$50,000)**
This application is for technical design services that will complement the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) plans for the reconstruction of the New York and Florida Avenue, NE, intersection as a virtual traffic circle. The objective of this project is to employ complete streets and sustainable design principles to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, wayfinding, and safety around the intersection, while greening the public realm. The NoMa BID has support from DDOT and the DC Office of Planning (DCOP).

Maryland

- **City of Bowie, Pedestrian Trail System, Phase I Concept Development (\$20,000)**
This project involves further refinement of a pedestrian trail system developed in 2008 through previous participation in the TLC Program. The Bowie City Council approved an amendment to the City Trails Master Plan to include the previous study's recommendations. This project will help the City refine plans for the highest priority segment of the trail system, helping stakeholders to focus on the details of this first segment of the overall project through concept development, visualizations, and sketch renderings.
- **Frederick County, MD-355 / MD-85 TOD Study (\$60,000)**
This project will identify ways to enhance transit oriented development through short-term bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements and by reviewing long-term land-use recommendations. The final product will include recommendations for implementation and incorporation of study findings into an upcoming small area plan. This project is a joint effort between the Frederick County Division of Planning, Frederick TransIT, and the Frederick County Office of Economic Development.

- **City of Greenbelt, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (\$30,000)**
 The City of Greenbelt is requesting technical assistance in the preparation of a pedestrian and bicycle master plan. This plan will help the City improve connectivity between neighborhoods so that pedestrians and bicyclists can reach major destinations. The citizen-led Advisory Planning Board (APB) has assumed responsibility for preparing the master plan. The consultant will work with the APB to coordinate citizen input, assess gaps in existing infrastructure, and design solutions to improve connectivity.
- **Prince George’s County, Town of Cheverly Non-motorized Transportation Study (\$30,000)**
 The goal of this project is to formulate strategies to improve non-motorized transportation in the Cheverly area. The project will provide recommendations to improve connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists to major destinations within Cheverly: the Cheverly Metrorail Station, the Prince George’s Hospital Center, the community retail and shopping area, and the largely industrial area between Cheverly and the Anacostia River. The final product will yield a vision for non-motorized transport in and around Cheverly, recommendations for achieving this vision, and preliminary concept designs.
- **City of Rockville, Complete Streets Policy (\$30,000)**
 Assistance from the TLC Program will provide the City with resources towards the development of a Complete Streets Policy. This project includes the development of a policy requiring that city streets are planned, designed, constructed, and maintained to enable safe access for all users. The final product will include recommended revisions to the City’s “Standards and Details for Construction” to incorporate design standards for new and retrofit projects that contain the most current multimodal design standards.

Virginia

- **City of Manassas Park, Marketing the Redevelopment Potential of TOD (\$20,000)**
 This project builds off previous technical assistance received by the City to formalize a vision for the developable land around the Manassas Park Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Station. Several parcels are already under development to create “City Center,” a dense, mixed-use community adjacent to the VRE station. This project will provide a marketing scheme for the City to identify and reach potential investors to develop the remaining vacant parcels and redevelop existing industrial parcels in accordance with the vision.
- **Prince William County, Sustainability of Mixed-Use Development at Commuter Rail Stations (\$30,000)**
 This project will examine the possibilities of creating a successful mixed-use development and mass transit node adjacent to the Woodbridge VRE Station. Strategy and policy recommendations developed through the project would provide the County with a template for reviewing development adjacent to commuter rail

stations and making long-range land-use and transportation planning decisions for these facilities. This project will be completed in collaboration with the Prince William County Office of Planning and Department of Transportation, as well as the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), VRE, and VDOT.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

Projects will commence immediately after the consultant is selected. It is anticipated that many projects may be completed by the end of FY 2009 (June 30, 2009), though some projects will require carryover into FY 2010 to allow for a satisfactory product.

FY 2010 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On March 16, 2009, the TPB will conduct a pre-application workshop for the TLC Program. The pre-application workshop will provide an overview of the purpose of the TLC Technical Assistance Program, review lessons learned from past projects, detail the TLC application process, and highlight the evaluation criteria that will be used by the selection panel to review the applications. The TLC pre-application workshop will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the first floor Training Center of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. This workshop will also be accessible through webinar software.

It is anticipated that \$220,000 from the FY 2010 UPWP funding for the TLC Program will be made available for technical assistance projects in this application cycle. MDOT is expected to commit \$100,000 from their technical assistance account for projects in Maryland, with special emphasis on projects relating to transit-oriented development (TOD). In the FY 2010 program, technical assistance again will be provided in amounts from \$10,000 to \$60,000, with the potential for scaling applications to provide the greatest benefit for all applicants.

FY 2010 TIMELINE

The following timeline was approved for the FY 2010 TLC technical assistance program:

- March 16, 2009: The TPB will release call for projects for FY 2010 technical assistance.
- March 16, 2009: The TPB will host a Pre-Application Workshop for jurisdictions and organizations interested in applying for FY 2010 technical assistance funding.
- May 18, 2009: TLC applications for technical assistance are due by 4:00 p.m.
- June 2009: The TPB will convene a selection panel to review and recommend projects.
- July 15, 2009: Request TPB approval for FY 2010 slate of projects.