

**ITEM 7 – Action
May 15, 2024**

Regional Roadway Safety Program Project Approvals

Action: Approve the Regional Roadway Safety Program Projects.

Background: Staff will brief the board on the projects recommended by the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP) Selection Panel to receive technical assistance in the fifth round of the program. The board will be asked to approve the recommended projects.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Janie Nham, TPB Planning Manager
SUBJECT: FY 2025 Regional Roadway Safety Program Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations
DATE: May 9, 2024

This memo provides information on the recommendations of the Selection Panel for the fourth round of technical assistance under the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP). The panel met in April and recommended six projects for funding. The TPB is scheduled to vote on the panel's recommendations on May 15.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2025

A total of \$480,000 was authorized for the current round of the Regional Roadway Safety Program. Following an evaluation process and joint deliberation, the RRSP selection panel recommends six projects for funding. The recommended projects support several key TPB safety priorities:

- All six projects address one or more of the funding priorities outlined in TPB Safety Policy Resolution R3-2021.
- Five projects encourage improved road user behavior through improved infrastructure design.
- All six projects benefit Equity Emphasis Areas.

The projects recommended for funding are:

MARYLAND

Jefferson Street Engineering

City of Frederick, \$100,000

This project builds upon a project funded in FY 2024 to provide multimodal safety improvements along a main corridor in the City, Jefferson Street. A crash has occurred along Jefferson Street every 45 days for the past five years. This follow-on project will advance the recommendations from the ongoing study towards 30% design.

Randolph Road Safety Improvement Project

Montgomery County, \$100,000

This project will develop preliminary engineering designs of safety improvements proposed for Randolph Road, an arterial that has a history of serious injury and fatal crashes and is identified in the County's High Injury network. The corridor serves multiple Equity Emphasis Area communities, and the proposed improvements include corridor access management, strategic lane width reduction, improved pedestrian crossings, enhanced corridor access management, and ADA compliance for sidewalks, ramps, and crosswalks.

Study of Proactive Approaches to Transportation Safety: Exploring near-miss data and innovation technologies

Prince George's County, \$40,000

This project will conduct a study of methods for collecting, analyzing, and using data related to “near miss” crashes. According to the Federal Transit Administration, a “near miss” is defined as an event that has the potential to lead to injury, fatality, or physical damage but that is not actualized. Prince George’s County hopes that the findings from this study will allow it proactively explore areas of safety concern beyond its high injury network.

VIRGINIA

Seminary Road Safety Improvements

City of Alexandria, \$80,000

This project will identify and develop conceptual designs for safety improvements along Seminary Road, a high-crash corridor that serves an Equity Emphasis Area community and falls within the one-mile walkshed for two elementary schools. Potential corridor enhancements may include new crosswalks, lane modifications, sidewalk improvements, and bus stop improvements, among other treatments.

S. George Mason Drive and S. Four Mile Run Drive Intersection Alternatives Analysis

Arlington County, \$80,000

This project will evaluate the feasibility of two alternative designs for the intersection of S. George Mason Drive and S. Four Mile Run Drive, a complex intersection where two major arterial roads, a neighborhood street, and the W & OD trail cross. One of the alternatives would be a peanutabout, a peanut-shaped roundabout. The intersection has been identified as a County Vision Zero Hot Spot because of its high crash rate, and it was highlighted by the community through public outreach for its safety concerns.

Wilson Boulevard Safety Improvements

City of Falls Church, \$80,000

This project will develop conceptual design plans for multimodal improvements along Wilson Boulevard in the City of Falls Church, between the Arlington Boulevard service road and John Marshall Drive/ N McKinley Road. The site has experienced several crashes involving serious injuries and a fatality, and serves an Equity Emphasis Area. The City intends to coordinate the project with the planned Route 7 BRT service as well as the Seven Corners Ring Road project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The TPB solicited applications from member jurisdictions for this year’s FY 2025 RRSP round from January 5 through March 8, 2024. Applicants could submit optional abstracts, which provided them with preliminary feedback from TPB staff on how to strengthen their submissions. Applicants were eligible to receive up to \$80,000 in technical assistance for planning projects and up to \$100,000 for preliminary engineering projects (up to 30 percent design).

The TPB received 18 applications (nine from Maryland jurisdictions and nine from Virginia jurisdictions) requesting a total of \$1,540,000 in technical assistance. Maryland jurisdictions requested \$780,000 total in assistance, and Virginia jurisdictions requested \$760,000 total in assistance. No applications were received from the District of Columbia this year. For FY 2025, the RRSP was funded for \$480,000. This budget includes four funding sources:

- \$180,000 from the TPB's FY 2025 UPWP core regional planning funds
- \$89,000 of Virginia UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$175,000 of Maryland UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$36,000 of District of Columbia UPWP Technical Assistance

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel included the following members:

- Tim Richards, Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Christine Mayeur, District Department of Transportation
- Bobby Mangalath, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Janie Nham, COG/TPB staff

The selection panel met on April 22 to review the project applications and develop a list of recommended projects. Panelists applied TPB funding priorities as well as their own extensive knowledge of roadway safety to assess the proposed projects. Each panel member individually reviewed and scored each application in advance of the meeting and assigned each application a high, medium, or low ranking based on their scores. The rankings served as a foundation for the panel's collective discussion.

Based upon a consensus developed through the panel's April 22 meeting and subsequent exchanges, the selection panel developed a list of six projects to recommend to the TPB for approval. The panel believes this package of projects will result in safety improvements, including fewer deaths and injuries. In developing its recommendations, the panel strove to equitably allocate program funds between Maryland and Virginia.

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 project scalability provided in the applications.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

On May 15, 2024, the TPB will be asked to approve the recommended collection of six projects for technical assistance funding under the FY 2025 RRSP. Upon approval, TPB staff will coordinate with the relevant jurisdictions to finalize project scopes of work and begin the consultant selection process. Work on the specific projects will begin after consultant contracts are signed. The projects are anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2025.

For further questions regarding the RRSP, please contact Janie Nham (jnham@mwkog.org) or Kenneth Derryberry (kderryberry@mwkog.org).