

ITEM 9 - Action

April 15, 2015

Approval of Projects for Funding under the MAP-21
Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2016 in Virginia

Staff

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution R20-2015 to approve projects for funding under the Virginia MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2016.

Issues: None

Background: A portion of Virginia's MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds is sub-allocated to the TPB for project selection in Northern Virginia. The Board will be briefed on the projects recommended by a technical review panel for funding as part of the FY 2016 TAP project solicitation conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and asked to approve the recommended projects.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR FY 2016 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 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP- 21) for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, under MAP-21's Transportation Alternatives Program 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, through a competitive process, selects the Transportation Alternatives Program projects in consultation with the State"; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternatives Program provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Alternatives Program 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 Transportation Alternatives Program 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 Transportation Alternatives Program projects was conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation from August 1 through November 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the TPB's Transportation Alternatives Program Review Panel met on April 2, 2015 and recommended fully or partially funding nine 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 3, 2015, 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 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2016 in Northern Virginia as described in the attached materials.



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Transportation Alternatives Program FY 2016 Proposed Projects for Funding in Northern Virginia

Transportation Planning Board
April 15, 2015

John Swanson
Department of Transportation Planning

Transportation Alternatives Program

- A formula program under MAP-21
- Provides funding to projects considered “alternatives” to traditional highway construction
- Combines three former programs:
 - Transportation Enhancements (TE)
 - Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
 - Recreational Trails (RTP)
- Large MPOs play a role in project selection for funds that are sub-allocated to large metropolitan regions.





Opportunities for Our Region

Fund regional priorities and goals

- Promote transportation choices and options
- Promote regional activity centers

Complement regional planning activities

- Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program
- Regional Transportation Priorities Plan
- Inventory of ped/bike improvements at under-utilized rail station areas

[Overview](#)

[Selection](#)

[Projects](#)

[Next Steps](#)

3



Regional Selection Criteria

Projects should strive to meet as many criteria as possible:

- Transportation options
- Regional Activity Centers
- Access to transit
- Safe routes to schools
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with disabilities
- Local commitment

[Overview](#)

[Selection](#)

[Projects](#)

[Next Steps](#)

4



Northern Virginia Solicitation & Funding

- VDOT's FY 2016 solicitation
 - August 1 to November 1, 2014
- Three part selection:
 - Northern Virginia District CTB Member allocation (from statewide funding: \$1 million
 - MPO sub-allocation for Northern Virginia: \$2,546,740
 - Remaining statewide funding will be allocated by CTB
- Northern Virginia:
 - 17 applications received
 - A total funding request of \$5,416,359

[Overview](#)

[Selection](#)

[Projects](#)

[Next Steps](#)

5



Projects Recommended for Sub-Allocated funds

- Arlington County
 - \$220,000 - McKinley Road/N Ohio St SRTS Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements
 - \$200,000 - Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements
- Fairfax County
 - \$146,000 - Town of Vienna: Louise Archer Elementary School Missing Sidewalks
 - \$280,000 - Westbriar Elementary School Access - Old Courthouse Road Sidewalk
 - \$150,000 - Cinderbed Road Bikeway
 - \$280,000 – Town of Herndon: Van Buren Street Multi-modal Improvements Project
- Loudoun County
 - \$144,580 – Safe Routes to Schools, various locations
- Prince William
 - \$560,000 - Smoketown Rd/Gideon Road & Opitz Blvd/Potomac Mills Rd Pedestrian Improvements
 - \$566,160 - Old Bridge Road Sidewalk Project

[Overview](#)

[Selection](#)

[Projects](#)

[Next Steps](#)

6



Next Steps: Regional TA Program

The TPB will conduct future solicitations in partnership with each state:

- Maryland: Applications are due May 15
- District: DDOT and TPB staff will solicit projects jointly this summer
- Virginia: Expect to conduct the FY 2017 solicitation this fall

[Overview](#)

[Selection](#)

[Projects](#)

[Next Steps](#)

7



TPB Action Requested

The TPB is being asked to adopt Resolution R20-2015 to approve projects for funding under the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2016 in Northern Virginia

[Overview](#)

[Selection](#)

[Projects](#)

[Next Steps](#)

8



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: John Swanson, Principal Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Projects recommended for funding under the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2016 in Virginia

DATE: April 9, 2015

This memo summarizes the process used to select projects for the FY 2016 regional Transportation Alternatives Program for Northern Virginia and the projects recommended for funding. The TPB is asked to approve Resolution R20-2015 to provide funding for projects for the regional sub-allocated program funds under the Transportation Alternatives Program of the Federal Highway Administration for FY 2016 in Northern Virginia.

Background

The Transportation Alternatives Program is a formula program under MAP-21 that provides funding to projects considered “alternatives” to traditional highway construction. The program combines three former federal programs: Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), and Recreational Trails (RTP). Eligible recipients include 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 are not eligible to be direct recipients of the funds.

One of the key differences between the Transportation Alternatives Program and the previous programs is that large MPOs play a new role in project selection for a portion of program funds that are sub-allocated to large metropolitan regions. MAP-21 specified that in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, the metropolitan planning organization shall, “through a competitive process, select the Transportation Alternatives projects in consultation with the State.” TPB staff worked with VDOT to conduct a cooperative solicitation for Northern Virginia.

For the National Capital Region, the program offers an opportunity to support and enhance regional planning activities. At the direction of the Board, our region’s Transportation Alternatives Program is framed as 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.

The funding also offers the region the ability to fund projects that support regional priorities and goals, based on recommendations outlined in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. The regional component of Virginia’s application and the regional selection criteria are based on these

regional priorities. In particular, these priorities promote better non-motorized circulation within Regional Activity Centers and improved ped/bike access to transit. Improved access to transit is the objective that underlay the TPB's recently completed study "Improving Pedestrian/Bicycle Access at Select Rail Stations," which was funded through the federal Transportation, Community and Systems Preservation (TCSP) Program.

Since the program's establishment in 2012, the TPB has combined its solicitations for each state with the state departments of transportation for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

FY 2016 Solicitation for Virginia

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) conducted the solicitation for new projects in Virginia. Applications were due electronically to the VDOT Local Assistance Division on November 1, 2014. 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.

For Northern Virginia, a total of 17 applications were received representing a total of \$5,416,359 in requested funding. These applications are eligible for statewide TAP funding as well as the TPB's sub-allocated funds.

Virginia essentially has a three-part process for project selection:

1. The district members of Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) each have \$1 million for project selection from the statewide pot of funding;
2. MPOs select projects for sub-allocated funds;
3. The at-large members of the CTB select projects for the remainder of the statewide money.

The CTB District Member for Northern Virginia, Mr. Gary Garczynski, on March 9 announced his project selections for the \$1 million he is responsible for allocating.

Project Selection for Northern Virginia

The TPB is now completing the second step in the selection process noted above. For FY 2016 in Northern Virginia, the TPB has responsibility for project selection for \$2,546,740 in available funding.

The TPB's regional review panel met on April 2. The members of the review panel comprised:

- Kevin Belanger, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, City of Rockville.
- Stephen Rice, Transportation Management Specialist, District Department of Transportation. Mr. Rice manages the Transportation Alternatives Program for the District of Columbia.
- Lamont Cobb, Transportation Planner, COG/TPB staff
- Michael Farrell, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, COG/TPB staff
- John Swanson, Transportation Planner, COG/TPB staff

The following selection criteria were considered in the review process, with the understanding that some projects would only meet some criteria. These criteria are rooted in TPB policies and programs:

- **Transportation options:** 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:** Does the project enhance walkability and accessibility within or between Regional Activity Centers?
- **Access to transit:** Will the project improve ped/bike access to transit?
- **Safe routes to schools:** Does the project enhance safe ped/bike access to schools?
- **Disadvantaged communities:** Does the project promote accessibility for disadvantaged communities?
- **People with disabilities:** Is the project largely intended to promote accessibility for people with disabilities?
- **Local commitment:** Does the application provide local matches greater than the 20 percent minimum requirement?

At the review panel's meeting on April 2, each member provided a ranking of the project applications under consideration. The projects were then grouped into "high", "medium", and "low" priority based on how each addressed the regional project selection criteria.

At the end of the meeting on April 2, the review panel recommended 10 projects for funding. On April 3, TPB staff was informed that one of its selected projects, a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) application for Alexandria middle schools, was withdrawn. At the guidance of the review panel, the funding for the Alexandria project, \$28,806, was reallocated to Loudoun County's (SRTS) project, which is partially funded.

TPB staff presented the review panel's recommendations to the TPB Technical Committee April 3. The list of recommended projects is at the end of this memo.

Next Steps

Following the TPB's action on April 15, TPB staff will forward information regarding the selected projects to VDOT for inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six Year Improvement Plan for Transportation. Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board will also consider whether to fund the unfunded projects in Northern Virginia with the remaining statewide TAP funding. Once all selections are finalized, VDOT staff will work with project owners to administer funding.

The TPB is currently participating in MDOT's solicitation for FY 2016 TAP projects. The deadline for those applications is May 15.

DDOT intends to issue a solicitation for projects in late spring or early summer.

**Projects Recommended for Funding
Northern Virginia Project Selection
for the FY2016 Transportation Alternatives Program**

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	FY 2016 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	\$440,000	\$220,000	\$220,000
Arlington County	Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements	\$200,000		\$200,000
Town of Vienna (Fairfax County)	Louise Archer Elementary School Missing Sidewalks	\$292,000	\$146,000	\$146,000
Fairfax County	Westbriar Elementary School Access - Old Courthouse Road Sidewalk	\$280,000		\$280,000
Fairfax County	Cinderbed Road Bikeway	\$400,000		\$150,000
Fairfax County	Lorton Cross-County Trail	\$258,015	\$153,000	
Town of Herndon (Fairfax County)	Van Buren Street Multi-modal Improvements Project	\$280,000		\$280,000
Loudoun County	Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS): Various locations	\$541,682	\$271,000	\$144,580
Prince William County	Smoketown at Gideon Road and Opitz Boulevard at Potomac Mills Road Pedestrian Improvements	\$560,000		\$560,000
Prince William County	Old Bridge Road Sidewalk Project	\$566,160		\$566,160
Prince William County	Jefferson Davis Highway Sidewalk and Footbridge Connection over Powell Creek	\$210,000	\$210,000	
			\$1,000,000	\$2,546,740

**Northern Virginia Project Selection for the MAP-21 FY 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Review Panel Recommendations**

Item #9



FY 2016 MPO TAP Funding Allocation: \$2,546,740

Project	Jurisdiction	Agency	Description	Total Project Cost	Federal Funding Request	Local Match	CTB District Member Allocation	TPB Review Panel Recommendation
McKinley Road/N Ohio St SRTS Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements	Arlington County	Department of Environmental Services - Transportation Division	Construction of raised medians, pedestrian curb extensions, and buffered bike lanes on McKinley Rd/N Ohio St from Wilson Blvd to 14th St N. Project intends to reduce vehicle speed in the corridor, as well as to provide a safe and continuous pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians. McKinley Elementary School is centrally located on the project Corridor; this project will provide safer access for students.	\$550,000	\$440,000	\$110,000	\$220,000	\$220,000
Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements	Arlington County	County Department of Environmental Services - Transportation Division	Improvements to sidewalks and streets to remove obstructions that restrict access by persons with disabilities, per the 1990 ADA. Specific locations were identified in an 2012 TLC project.	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$50,000	-	\$200,000
Louise Archer Elementary School Missing Sidewalks	Fairfax County	Town of Vienna	Install missing portions of sidewalks, as well as gutter, curb and drainage improvements along Nutley ST NW and West ST NW.	\$365,000	\$292,000	\$73,000	\$146,000	\$146,000
Westbriar Elementary School Access - Old Courthouse Road Sidewalk	Fairfax County	County Department of Transportation	Complete missing sidewalk segments from Creek Crossing Drive to Westbriar Elementary School. Project includes construction of new curb, curb ramps and gutters.	\$850,000	\$280,000	\$70,000	-	\$280,000
Cinderbed Road Bikeway	Fairfax County	Department of Transportation	Construction of a 3.1 mile bikeway connecting Fort Belvoir with Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station, with connections to the Fairfax County Parkway trail. Trail segments to include asphalt trail, Rail-Trail alignment, and on-road bike lanes.	\$4,000,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	-	\$150,000
Van Buren Street Multi-modal Improvements Project	Fairfax County	Town of Herndon	Rebuild a 1/2 mile section of Van Buren St. to include bicycle and pedestrian improvements, enhancements to subterranean infrastructure, and ADA accessibility enhancements.	\$350,000	\$280,000	\$70,000	-	\$280,000

**Northern Virginia Project Selection for the MAP-21 FY 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Review Panel Recommendations**

Item #9



FY 2016 MPO TAP Funding Allocation: \$2,546,740

Project	Jurisdiction	Agency	Description	Total Project Cost	Federal Funding Request	Local Match	CTB District Member Allocation	TPB Review Panel Recommendation
Loudoun County Public Schools SRTS Infrastructure Improvements, Phase II	Loudoun County	Loudoun County Public Schools	Installation of sidewalks, crosswalks and trails to provide walkable paths for students to walk or bike to school at several campuses across the County.	\$676,976	\$541,682	\$135,385	\$271,000	\$144,580
Smoketown at Gideon Road and Opitz Boulevard at Potomac Mills Road Pedestrian Improvements	Prince William County	County Department of Transportation	Improvements to pedestrian facilities at the intersection of Smoketown Rd and Gideon road and Opitz Blvd and Potomac Mills Rd. Project to include three new signal-controlled crossings, curb ramps, cut through pathways at four channelized islands for each intersection and 300' of sidewalk.	\$700,000	\$560,000	\$140,000	-	\$560,000
Old Bridge Road Sidewalk Project	Prince William County	County Department of Transportation	Install 900' of sidewalk on Old Bridge Rd between Mohican Rd and Antietam Rd. Will integrate with existing SRTS project on Antietam Rd.	\$707,700	\$566,160	\$141,540	-	\$566,160
							Total:	\$2,546,740