

## **ITEM 8 – Action**

May 17, 2023

### 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 fourth round of the program. The board will be asked to approve the recommended projects.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board  
**FROM:** Janie Nham, TPB Transportation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** FY 2024 Regional Roadway Safety Program Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations  
**DATE:** May 11, 2023

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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 eight projects for funding. The TPB is scheduled to vote on the panel's recommendations on May 17.

## FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2024

A total of \$550,000 in FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) funding was authorized for the current round of the Regional Roadway Safety Program. Following an evaluation process and joint deliberation, the RRSP selection panel recommends eight projects for funding. The recommended projects support several key TPB safety priorities:

- All eight projects address one or more of the funding priorities outlined in TPB Safety Policy Resolution R3-2021.
- All eight projects either directly or indirectly encourage improved road user behavior.
- Four projects have a jurisdiction-wide or region-wide focus, while the remaining four projects concentrate on specific locations.
- Seven projects benefit Equity Emphasis Areas.

The projects recommended for funding are:

### MARYLAND

#### **Jefferson-Patrick Redesign Study**

*City of Frederick, \$80,000*

This project will develop preliminary engineering designs that redesign a five-way intersection at S. Jefferson Street, Prospect Boulevard, and Pearl Street. The project will additionally provide design recommendations for three main corridors in the City to enhance walkability, bikability, and safety. The study findings will inform the development of two small area plans for Downtown Frederick and the City's southwest area.

#### **Local Roadway Safety Plan - Identifying, Analyzing and Prioritizing Roadway Safety Improvements**

*City of Gaithersburg, \$60,000*

This project will develop a Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) that provides a framework to guide roadway safety improvements in the City. The LRSP would include a prioritization of safety issues, risks, actions, and improvements and would inform the City's capital improvement planning.

### **Bel Pre Road Safety Improvement Project**

*Montgomery County, \$80,000*

This project will develop preliminary engineering designs of safety improvements proposed for Bel Pre Road, a four-lane arterial with a history of serious injury and fatal crashes and identified in the County's Vision Zero High Injury network. The corridor falls within an Equity Emphasis Area community and the proposed improvements include safety countermeasures that target vehicular speeding and unsafe pedestrian crossings at uncontrolled intersections.

### **Pedestrian Crossing Guidelines**

*City of Rockville, \$40,000*

This project will develop a set of guidelines to help City staff identify and implement pedestrian crossing treatments as part of its Vision Zero program. The guidelines would help City staff to account for a variety of variables and to select the most effective facilities for crossing improvements.

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Pedestrian Lighting Improvements Study**

*City of Alexandria, \$80,000*

This project will conduct a study of pedestrian lighting needs in key areas. The study would evaluate lighting best practices, identify and evaluate priority areas for lighting improvements, and develop recommendations for lighting improvements. Between 2016 and 2020, 25 percent of pedestrian crashes that occurred in Alexandria at night resulted in fatal or severe injury.

### **Regionwide, Data-Driven Anti-Drunk Driving Campaign**

*Arlington County, \$80,000*

This project will evaluate regional alcohol-related crash patterns and factors, and research successful strategies to reduce impaired driving. The goal of the project is to produce a strategic package of recommendations for regional jurisdictions to use for education purposes and to foster a consistent anti-drunk driving message across the region.

### **Main Street Corridor Roadway Safety Audit**

*City of Fairfax, \$80,000*

This project will conduct a roadway safety audit of Main Street, a 1.7-mile arterial in the City of Fairfax where 250 roadway crashes were reported over a five-year period including two pedestrian fatalities. The corridor has been identified in the top one percent of regional and state priorities in VDOT's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP).

### **Darbydale/Forestdale Avenue Corridor Retrofitting Project**

*Prince William County, \$50,000*

This project will prepare preliminary engineering designs to retrofit safety countermeasures in the Darbydale/Forestdale Avenue corridor. The corridor is identified as a priority location in the County's 2022 Roadway Incident Management Program (RIMP) based on crash incidents, touches two Equity Emphasis Areas, and includes a middle school. This project would also serve as a model for retrofitting other "legacy" roadways in the County, roadways that were designed based on outdated traffic and mobility assumptions.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The TPB solicited applications from member jurisdictions for this year's FY 2024 RRSP round from January 6 through March 3, 2023. 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 between \$30,000 and \$80,000 in technical assistance for planning and preliminary engineering projects (up to 30 percent design).

The TPB received 12 applications (five from Maryland jurisdictions and seven from Virginia jurisdictions) requesting a total of \$910,000 in technical assistance. Maryland jurisdictions requested \$380,000 total in assistance, and Virginia jurisdictions requested \$530,000 total in assistance. No applications were received from the District of Columbia this year. For FY 2024, the RRSP was funded for \$550,000. This budget includes four funding sources:

- \$150,000 from the TPB's FY 2024 UPWP core regional planning funds
- \$185,000 of Virginia UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$185,000 of Maryland UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$30,000 of District of Columbia UPWP Technical Assistance

## SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel included the following members:

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

The selection panel met on April 21 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 21 meeting and subsequent exchanges, the selection panel developed a list of eight 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 17, 2023, the TPB will be asked to approve the recommended collection of eight projects for technical assistance funding under the FY 2024 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 complete by June 30, 2024.

For further questions regarding the RRSP, please contact Janie Nham ([jnham@mwkog.org](mailto:jnham@mwkog.org)).