

# TRANSIT WITHIN REACH PROGRAM

## Recommendations for Project Funding in FY 2024-2025

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TPB Technical Committee October 6, 2023



#### Need & Purpose

- Opportunity: More than half of the region's job growth and over 40 percent of new households over the next decade are expected to be within a half mile of high-capacity transit
- Challenge: But even where transit is physically close, it often is not within reach for people who walk and bike.
- Goal: Fund small, high-impact projects that will make it easier to walk and bike to transit.







#### How the program is structured

- It's like TLC and the Regional Roadway Safety Program
  - Uses the same model of technical assistance as other TPB programs
  - Provides short-term consultant services, not direct financial assistance to TPB local government members
- ... But different
  - The TWR program is only for preliminary engineering and design (up to 30%), not planning
  - Program purpose is more focused: Improving access to transit
  - Two-year cycles of funding
  - Projects to be completed in 9-10 months, starting this winter and ending in late 2024
  - Program funded by UPWP Technical Assistance Regional Transit Account



#### **Program Priorities**

Seeking preliminary design and engineering projects that:

- Improve bike/ped access to High-Capacity Transit
- Increase transit ridership and/or utilize available ridership capacity
- Improve access for low-income and communities of color
- Demonstrate collaboration with other agencies or jurisdictions
- Demonstrate strategies to advance project to construction



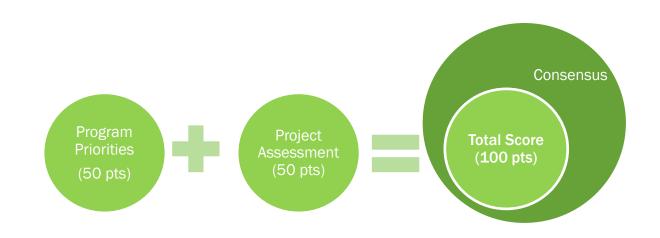
### This year's solicitation

- \$250,000 available
- Application solicitation period May 26 to August 4, 2023
- 6 applications were received for \$487,000 in funding requests



#### Selection

- Selection Panel
  - Chair of Regional Public
     Transportation Subcommittee
  - Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
  - 3 TPB Staff
- Individual Evaluations
- Consensus Building Meeting Seek balance among projects (regional balance, transit modes, equity)





## **Draft Funding Recommendations**

Jurisdiction Name	Project	Panel Recommendation
Fairfax County	Prosperity Avenue Safety Project	\$80,000
Gaithersburg	Olde Towne to Washington Grove Shared- Use Path	\$85,000
District of Columbia	9 <sup>th</sup> Street NW Sidewalk	\$85,000



### **Prosperity Avenue Safety Project – Fairfax County**

- 30% Design:
  - Road diet 4 lanes to 2
  - Protected bike lanes
- The community:
  - Access to Dunn Loring Metro station
  - High concentration of housing, jobs, schools, retail
  - In an Equity Emphasis Area and a Transit Access Focus Area
- Project length 0.8 miles
  - Primary area: US Customs and Immigration Service to Gallows Rd.
  - Also create designs to convert existing buffered bike lanes to protected lanes east of the primary area





### Olde Towne to Washington Grove Shared-Use Path

- Gaithersburg \$80,000
- 30% designs for a shareduse path
- Connecting two MARC stations – Gaithersburg and Washington Grove
- Will also connect to a new path from Washington Grove to Shady Grove Metro station
- Building on a TLC feasibility study completed this past summer

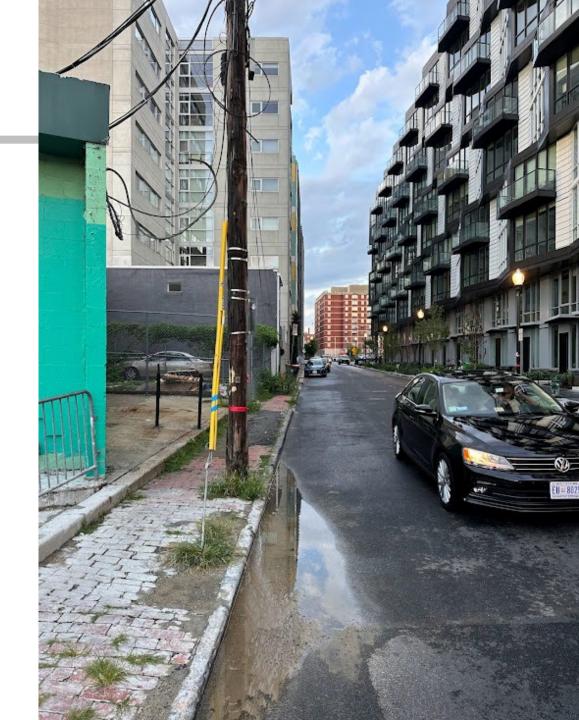






#### 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Sidewalk

- District of Columbia \$80,000
- 30% designs
- Widen an unsafe stretch of sidewalk in a dense urban neighborhood
- Access to two Metro stations, as well as other transit
- Safety and streetscape improvements
- Lots of foot traffic from long-time residents, newcomers, students from Howard University, entertainment venues, etc.





### **Next Steps**

- Seek TPB approval of project recommendations on October 18
- Begin consultant selection process





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