The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board’s Transportation Land Use Connections Program

Helping local governments plan vibrant communities

The projects vary across the region, but the challenges are often similar.

Why TLC?

Walkable and livable communities... Mixed-use centers... Transit-oriented development...

Whatever it’s called, local governments across the National Capital Region are integrating land use and transportation planning to create vibrant communities. Some jurisdictions are promoting more development closer to transit to reduce the need to drive everywhere. Others are looking at how to connect activity centers with multimodal corridors. Still other places are revitalizing existing communities to make them more walkable and accessible for people without cars. The projects vary across the region, but the challenges are often similar. How can planners foster better, more viable transportation choices? How do communities get the right type of development near transit stations? What improvements—such as streetscaping, sidewalks, or lighting—can make a street safer and more inviting?

What is TLC?

The Transportation Planning Board’s (TPB) Transportation/Land Use Connections program is designed to assist local jurisdictions as they work through these challenges, and to share success stories and proven tools with local governments and agencies across the region.

Since 2007, the TLC program has funded planning, design, and engineering projects. Technical assistance may include a range of services, such as:

* Corridor and transit station planning
* Bicycle and pedestrian safety and access studies
* Transit-oriented development studies
* Housing studies
* Economic development studies
* Streetscape improvement plans
* Design guidelines and roadway standards
* Trail planning design
* Safe Routes to School planning
* Transit demand and feasibility analysis

Funding Priorities

The TPB encourages applications that address one or more of these regional land-use/transportation priorities at the community level:

* Multimodal Transportation Options: The TLC Program seeks projects that support a variety of travel choices, particularly those that reduce dependence on driving. Such options include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit alternatives, options for people with disabilities, Safe Routes to School enhancements, and freight improvements.
* Land-Use Enhancements in Activity Centers and Around HighCapacity Transit Stations: The TPB encourages projects that support balanced development near transit stations and in the region’s 141 Activity Centers, which are places that the TPB and COG have prioritized for future growth. Such projects may promote increased employment or more housing, especially affordable housing. mwcog.org/activitycenters
* Access to Transit: The TLC Program encourages projects that improve access to highcapacity transit stations. Such access improvements may include pedestrian, bicycle, and other micromobility connections, as well as short-range transit connections. Nearly 300 high-capacity transit stations are anticipated by 2045. mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/hct
* Access for Low-Income and Minority Communities: The TPB has identified locations, called Equity Emphasis Areas, that have high concentrations of low-income and minority populations. The TLC Program encourages applications focused on these areas. mwcog.org/tpb-equity-emphasis-areas
* Key Regional Trails: Projects on high-priority regional trails are encouraged, particularly those that support connections to and completion of the National Capital Trail. mwcog.org/maps/nationalcapital-trail

Applying for Technical Assistance

Applications for the FY 2021 Solicitation are due March 9, 2020.

* Any local jurisdiction in the National Capital region that is a member of the TPB is eligible to apply.
* Applications will be submitted through an application form and short project description. Details on how to apply can be found at: mwcog.org/tlc.
* Applications are solicited and awarded once a year. A selection panel will review the applications and recommend projects for funding. The TPB approves the projects, typically in the spring.
* New projects will begin in the autumn and must be completed by the end of the fi scal year (June 30).
* Recipients receive short-term consultant services. Recipients do not receive direct fi nancial assistance.
* Recipients are eligible to receive between $30,000 and $60,000 in technical assistance for planning projects and up to $80,000 for design projects.
* The TPB will seek to ensure that assistance is provided to a broad cross-section of jurisdictions throughout the region.

Applicants for TLC assistance might also consider these related funding opportunities:

* The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program provides federal grants for construction and design of ped/bike improvements and other enhancements. The TPB and the states in our region work jointly to annually select projects. The TPB encourages applications supporting TLC funding priorities. mwcog.org/tlc
* Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panels (ULI-TAPs) gather urban development experts to provide focused, market-level feedback for local development and/or land-use issues. In recent years, ULI Washington and COG partnered to support TAPs. washington.uli.org

What is the TPB?

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for metropolitan Washington. It is responsible for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in the metropolitan area. The TPB is staffed by the Department of Transportation Planning at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

TPB Members

* City of Alexandria
* Arlington County
* Town of Bowie
* Charles County
* City of College Park
* District of Columbia
* City of Fairfax
* Fairfax County
* City of Falls Church
* Fauquier County
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* City of Rockville
* City of Takoma Park
* Maryland House of Delegates
* Maryland Senate
* Virginia House of Delegates
* Virginia Senate
* Maryland DOT
* Virginia DOT
* District of Columbia DOT
* Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Ex-Officio Members

* Federal Highway Administration
* Federal Transit Administration
* Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
* National Capital Planning Commission

Contact Us

To apply for TLC technical assistance, send application materials to TLC@mwcog.org. For more information, contact TPB staff:

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