## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: TPB Technical Committee

FROM: Sarah Crawford, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Proposed Projects for Funding under the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program

for FY 2015 in Virginia

DATE: May 2, 2014

This memo summarizes the process used to select projects for the FY 2015 regional Transportation Alternatives Program for Northern Virginia, the projects recommended for funding, and next steps for this regional program. At the TPB meeting on May 21, the TPB will be asked to approve projects for FY 2015 in 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 TA 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 TA Program and the previous programs is that large MPOs play a new role in project selection for a portion of program funds that are suballocated 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 TA projects in consultation with the State."

For the National Capital Region, this new program offers an opportunity to support and enhance regional planning activities. At the direction of the Board, the region's TA 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 regional priorities and goals, linked to 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.

Last year, the TPB conducted a competitive solicitation and selection process and allocated regional funding for FY 2013 and FY 2014 in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and for FY 2014 in Virginia for new projects only. The regional TA Program was undersubscribed in Maryland and Virginia, with a remainder of \$979,548 for Maryland and \$388,078 for Virginia. Maryland has reissued the FY 2014 solicitation, in which the TPB is participating. The remaining FY 2014 Virginia funding was applied to FY 2015.

## FY 2015 Solicitation

TPB staff worked closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Local Assistance Division through that agency's coordination of MPOs across Virginia to refine VDOT's application for the FY 2015 TA Program. This year marked the first solicitation for new projects in Virginia, as VDOT used the FY 2013 and FY 2014 TA funding for existing requests for TE funding. VDOT developed an attachment responding to the region's requests for information from applicants. Several additional questions were added to yield information about how projects responded to priorities for the Washington region, including accessibility of transportation facilities for all users; accessibility to transit and employment; proximity to Regional Activity Center and rail; and project coordination, including project origination in local planning efforts and public involvement.

TPB staff participated in VDOT's TA Program Applicant Workshop on August 7, 2013. The purpose of the workshop was to provide basic information about the TA Program, describe program and project eligibility, provide a detailed overview of the VDOT application, and discuss the project selection timetable. Applications were due electronically to the VDOT Local Assistance Division on November 1, 2013. As of the deadline, VDOT staff forwarded to TPB staff 13 applications for consideration for both the Northern Virginia regional suballocation of TA funding and the statewide TA funding.

## **Selection Criteria**

TPB staff developed selection criteria that complement the regional portion of VDOT's application and are rooted in TPB policies and program, including the TPB Vision, the TLC Program, COG's Region Forward, and recommendations from the TPB Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee and the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee. The following selection criteria were applied to all projects with the understanding that some projects would only meet some criteria. All applicants were encouraged to showcase how a project best meets a given criterion:

- Support a broad range of transportation choices within the region that maximize mobility and transportation options for non-drivers
- Improve access within and between Regional Activity Centers
- Collaboration and public involvement
- ADA accessibility and location within disadvantaged communities (per AFA request)
- Safe Routes to School
- Environmental mitigation, historic preservation, and other eligible activities
- Match funding; innovation

The selection process presented to the TPB during the FY 2013/2014 TA Program solicitation called for the establishment of a regional TA Program technical review committee that would recommend projects to the TPB for approval. Given that the TA Program was undersubscribed in all three state-level jurisdictions, it was not necessary to convene a review committee last year. However, the FY 2015 requests for Federal funding exceeded the amount available to assign to projects. Therefore, a formal review process was conducted.

## **FY 2015 Selection Process**

Thirteen project applications from Northern Virginia were received as part of Virginia's FY 2015 TA project solicitation. VDOT staff reviewed all of the application for readiness and eligibility and provided a score for each application and a Virginia-wide ranking for Safe Routes to School-eligible projects. The project selection process included review by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and a TPB Technical Review Committee for the regional TA Program.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board directed that a portion of the statewide TA funding be divided between the CTB Districts. The Northern Virginia District CTB Member, Gary Garczynski, was allocated \$1 million to assign to the 13 project submissions. Mr. Garczynski chose to partially fund five of the projects. The CTB met to approve the statewide TA funding recommendations on April 16. At that meeting, the At-Large CTB members allocated additional statewide funding to projects across the Commonwealth. The At-Large CTB members chose to fully fund three of the project partially funded by Mr. Garczynski, fully fund another project, and partially fund one additional project. Funding information related to these actions is on page 4.

The remaining unfunded or partially funded project applications were the subject of review at the TPB level. As established in the project selection process for the regional TA Program, the TPB uses a review committee to develop a recommended list of projects for TPB approval. The technical review committee met on April 24 and is chaired by non-voting TPB member Julia Koster of the National Capital Planning Commission, also chair of the TLC Selection Panel. Ms. Koster was joined by professionals with knowledge covering the range of eligible activities and regional transportation issues:

- Kevin Belanger, Transportation Planner, City of Rockville, Maryland. Mr. Belanger is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for Rockville.
- Stephen Hurst, Transportation Management Specialist, District Department of Transportation. Mr. Hurst manages the TA Program for the District of Columbia.

TPB staff also participated on the review committee.

Each member of the technical review committee provided a ranking of the ten project applications remaining under consideration. Following the CTB project selections, the total requested amount for these ten applications exceeded the available funding by \$46,000. Therefore all the project requests could not be fully funded. The committee grouped the projects into "high", medium", and "low" priority based on how each addressed the regional project selection criteria. The committee engaged in a discussion about the lower priority projects to determine if one or more projects would receive zero or partial funding. The recommendations of the committee may be found below.

## **Funding and Project Recommendations**

Below is a summary of the funding levels and project recommendations. For more information about the projects, please see Attachment A.

The TPB's suballocated portion of funding for use within the MPO planning area in Virginia for FY 2015 is \$2,551,269. The TPB carried over \$388,078 from FY 2014, resulting in a total available funding amount of \$2,939,347.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved funds for seven of the projects under the VDOT FY 2015 TA Program project solicitation, which is noted in the table on the next page. Two of the projects recommended for funding will implement recommendations of TLC projects.

## Funding Recommendations for the FY 2015 TA Program for Northern Virginia

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	FY 2015 Federal Funding Request	CTB Funding Approved *	TPB Funding Recommended
Arlington County	Four Mile Run Trail Connection	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Arlington County	Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements	\$200,000		\$200,000
Arlington County	SRTS: Ashlawn and Williamsburg Schools	\$400,000		\$400,000
Fairfax County	Cinderbed Road Bikeway	\$400,000		\$400,000
Fairfax County	Cross County Trail – Lorton Arts	\$400,000		\$353,057
Fairfax County	SRTS: Westbriar Elementary School	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Town of Herndon	Herndon Historic Revitalization Project: Phase 3	\$301,584	\$295,000	\$6,584
Loudoun County	SRTS: Various locations (nine schools)	\$413,018		\$413,018
Town of Middleburg	Washington Street Streetscape Improvements	\$413,688	\$207,000	\$206,688
National Park Service	Manassas National Battlefield Park, Stone Bridge Repair	\$480,000	\$480,000	-
Prince William County	Blackburn Road Sidewalk	\$560,000		\$560,000
Prince William County	Smoketown Road Sidewalk	\$264,000	\$264,000	-
Town of Vienna	SRTS: Westbriar Elementary School	\$106,185	\$106,185	-
	Total Requests:	\$4,738,475		
	CTB NoVa Funding:		\$1,752,185	
	TOTAL MPO FUNDING:	\$2,939,347		\$2,939,347

<sup>\*</sup> CTB funding allocations were made prior to the meeting of the technical review committee. Thus, the TPB's review committee only deliberated on the ten projects it recommends funding.

The members of the technical review committee each ranked the projects, and then divided the projects into high, medium, and low priority. They defined a priority project as one having a significant local and regional impact, one that demonstrates benefit to a sensitive community (students, persons with

disabilities, low-income or transit-dependent populations), projects that support regional goals, and project applications that demonstrate a commitment to implementation.

The technical review committee ranked the projects as follows:

## High Priority:

- Arlington County, Four Mile Run Trail Connection
- Arlington County, Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements
- Town of Herndon, Herndon Historic Revitalization Project: Phase 3

The committee felt each of the projects that fell in the "high" category met the definition of a priority project in most ways, as well as showed a clear path to implementation.

## **Medium Priority:**

- Arlington County, SRTS: Ashlawn and Williamsburg Schools
- Fairfax County, SRTS: Westbriar Elementary School
- Loudoun County, SRTS: Various locations
- Town of Middleburg, Washington Street Streetscape Improvements
- Prince William County, Blackburn Road Sidewalk

The committee felt the projects in the "medium" category met the definition of a priority project in some ways.

## Low Priority:

- Fairfax County, Cinderbed Road Parkway
- Fairfax County, Cross County Trail: Lorton Arts

The committee had several concerns with projects it ranked as a low priority. The concern the committee had with the Cinderbed project is that it is still in the feasibility stage. One of the goals established at the outset of the project was to use the regional TA Program funding to fund implementation. While Fairfax County has identified construction funding, the committee was concerned about unforeseen complications because the project is in its very early stages. It did feel strongly that this project would provide a vital non-auto transit connection to Fort Belvoir.

Related to the Cross County Trail project, the committee expressed a concern that, although the project has been previously awarded TA and TE funds, work has not yet begun on this project. The project sponsors appear to be pooling resources, which contradicts a goal of the regional TA Program: to fund timely implementation. The committee chose to recommend partial funding for this project. However, the committee stipulated that in future years, it does not recommend funding additional requests for this project if work has not commenced.

## **Next Steps**

Following the TPB's decision on May 21 regarding the FY 2015 TA projects in Virginia, TPB staff will forward information regarding the selected projects to VDOT for inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six Year Improvement Plan for Transportation. VDOT staff will then work with project owners to administer funding.

The TPB is currently participating in the Maryland Department of Transportation's reissuance of the FY 2014 TA Program solicitation for projects. Both the state and regional programs were undersubscribed

and had remaining funding. The TPB has \$979,548 remaining from its FY 2014 regional suballocation for Maryland. That project solicitation ends on May 15, 2014.

TPB staff is in communications with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to develop a coordinated approach to the FY 2015 project solicitation for the District. Since the FY 2013/2014 solicitation, the Federal Highway Administration has determined that DDOT is an eligible recipient of TA Program funding.

# National Capital Region Transportation Alternatives Program Applications for Regional Funding - FY 2015 VIRGINIA

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Project Description	Regional Activity Center	Rail Station	FY 2015 Federal Funding Request	CTB Funding Approved	TPB Funding Recommended
Arlington County	Four Mile Run Trail Connection	Construct a paved non-motorized transportation link between Arlington County's Four Mile Run Trail and the street network of Crystal City. There is a significant grade change from stream level to street level. The trail connection will need to accommodate the grade change, be ADA compliant, and contribute to the master planning of the Potomac Yards phased development activity center.	yes	yes	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Arlington County	Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements	Construct spot improvements to various sidewalks within the Rosslyn-Ballston commercial corridor. Locations were identified in a survey of existing conditions conducted in a 2012 TLC Study. Improvements include construction of curb extensions with new curb ramps to meet ADA standards, sidewalk widening, adjustments to medians and relocation of obstructions from sidewalk walking paths. Action has been taken to expend the FY 2014 funding allocated to this project through the regional TA Program.	yes	yes	\$200,000		\$200,000
Arlington County	SRTS: Ashlawn and Williamsburg schools	Construct new sidewalk and trail sections to provide pedestrian and bicycle access to two schools: Ashlawn Elementary School and Williamsburg Middle School. Reconstruct several intersection corners near schools to reduce crossing distance, manage traffic speed, and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Project provides link to regional Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail.	ou	ou	\$400,000		\$400,000
Fairfax County	Cinderbed Road Bikeway	The project will be approximately 3.1 miles in length and connect Fort Belvoir with the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station. It will also provide a link to the Fairfax County Parkway Trail, neighborhoods, and corporate centers. The project will be constructed on abandoned railroad alignments and on-road bike lanes. The current request is for design work only.	yes	yes	\$400,000		\$400,000
Fairfax County	Cross County Trail - Lorton	Construct a segment of the Cross County Trail in Lorton that will traverse the Lorton Arts Foundation property and connect Occoquan Regional Park and the Laurel Hill Greenway. The proposed segment will be approximately 1850 in length have an 18' cross section, which include a 10' shared use path, a 4' natural surface path and the appropriate clear zones for an ADA compliant shared use path.	OL OL	OU	\$400,000		\$353,057

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# National Capital Region Transportation Alternatives Program Applications for Regional Funding - FY 2015 VIRGINIA

	Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Project Description	Regional Activity Center	Rail Station	FY 2015 Federal Funding Request	CTB Funding Approved	TPB Funding Recommended
9	Fairfax County	SRTS: Westbriar Elementary School	Complete several missing segments of sidewalk along Old Courthouse Road by providing a continuous 5' sidewalk from Creek Crossing Drive to Westbriar Elementary School. Some sections will require new curb ramp and curb/gutter construction. Complements Vienna SRTS project.	ou	ou	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
7		Herndon Historic Town of Herndon Revitalization Project: Phase 3	Improve streetscape design and pedestrian accessibility, safety, and mobility in downtown Herndon. Phase 3 includes the construction of circulation and streetscape improvements, including a new streetscape design to include ADA curb cuts, brick sidewalks and crosswalks, tree grates, trees, traffic calming measures. *Located near future Silver Line Station.	yes	yes*	\$301,584	\$295,000	\$6,584
8	Loudoun County	SRTS: Various locations (nine schools)	Install sidewalks to provide walkable paths for students to walk to the following schools: Mill Run Elementary School, Newton Lee Elementary School, Sycolin Creek Elementary School, Tolbert Elementary School, River Creek Parkway Elementary School, Blue Ridge Middle School, Mercer Middle School, Board Run High School, Stonebridge High School.	ذ.	ou	\$413,018		\$413,018
6	Town of Middleburg	Washington Street Streetscape Improvements	Install 15 street lights, landscaping, and rehabilitate existing sidewalks on the south side of Washington Street. Rehabilitate sections of brick sidewalk on the north side of Washington Street. Locations were identified in a survey of existing conducted in a 2013 TLC Study.	ou	no	\$413,688	\$207,000	\$206,688
10	National Park Service	Manassas National Battlefield Park, Stone Bridge Repair	The project is for the first phase of a two-phase repair of the historic Stone Bridge over Bull Run in Manassas National Battlefield Park. Stone Bridge is a pedestrian facility and is in need of historic preservation and rehabilitation measures: structural repairs, repair of erosion, repointing, stone replacement, repair of undermining, and the addition of an engineered riprap.	OU	no	\$480,000	\$480,000	
11	Prince William County	Blackburn Road Sidewalk	Connect a missing sidewalk section with 500 feet of new sidewalk on Blackburn Road from Rippon Blvd to the Cow Branch Bridge. There are existing pedestrian networks north and south of the missing segment. The proposed section of new sidewalk is located on the PRTC Omni Ridge bus route and will provide access to bus stops.	OL OL	ou	\$560,000		\$560,000

# National Capital Region Transportation Alternatives Program Applications for Regional Funding - FY 2015 VIRGINIA

	Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Project Description	Regional Activity Center	Rail Station	FY 2015 Federal Funding Request	CTB Funding Approved	TPB Funding Recommended
77	12 Prince William County	Smoketown Road Sidewalk	The project involves connecting a missing sidewalk section with 230 feet of new sidewalk on Smoketown Road. There are existing pedestrian networks north and south of the missing segment. The proposed sidewalk is located on the PRTC Cross County Connector Route. It is less than one mile from the PRTC Transit Center, a main transit hub in the County.	<u>e</u>	ou	\$264,000	\$264,000	,
13	13 Town of Vienna	SRTS: Westbriar Elementary School	Install curb, gutter, and sidewalk improvements along the east side of Old Courthouse Road, with accessible ramps and painted crosswalks at each corner, from town line (near Pine Valley Drive) to Westbriar Court, NE. Complements Fairfax County SRTS project.	OL	yes	\$106,185	\$106,185	ı
			Virginia F	Funding Re	equested:	Virginia Funding Requested: \$4,738,475		

\$2,939,347

\$1,752,185

Virginia Funding Requested:

CTB Funding:

FY 2015 MPO Funding Available:



## Transportation Alternatives Program FY 2015 Proposed Projects for Funding in Virginia

TPB Technical Committee May 2, 2014

Sarah Crawford
Department of Transportation Planning

## FRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Transportation Alternatives (TA) 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 will play a role in project selection for those program funds that are suballocated to large metropolitan regions.



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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **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
- Region Forward



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## TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Virginia Project Solicitation**

The TPB participated in VDOT's FY 2015 project solicitation:

August 1, 2013: Open project solicitation

August 7: Northern Virginia TA Program

**Application Workshop** 

November 1: Application deadline

April 24, 2014: TPB Technical Review Committee

met to select proposed projects

May 21: The TPB is scheduled to approve

the FY 2015 Virginia projects



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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Regional Selection Criteria**

Projects should strive to meet as many criteria as possible:

- Support a broad range of transportation choices within the region that maximize mobility and transportation options for non-drivers
- Improve access within and between Regional Activity Centers
- Collaboration and public involvement
- ADA accessibility and disadvantaged communities
- · Safe Routes to School
- Environmental mitigation, historic preservation, and other eligible activities
- Match funding; innovation



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## FRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Regional Project Selection**

As outlined in the federal guidance, the TPB conducted a competitive process and selected projects in consultation with Virginia:

- VDOT reviewed the projects for readiness and eligibility, and provided feedback to TPB staff
- The Northern Virginia District CTB member allocated \$1 million and At-Large CTB members allocated \$750,000 towards projects in Northern Virginia
- The regional TA Program Technical Review Committee, chaired by Julia Koster, met to review ten remaining applications



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ANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRA FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Northern Virginia Funding Allocations**

TPB MPO suballocation for urbanized area:

• FY 2014 carryover: \$388,078

• FY 2015 suballocation: \$2,551,269

• Total MPO funding for FY 2015: \$2,939,347

Northern Virginia CTB Member allocation of statewide funding:

• FY 2015: **\$1 million** 

Additional funding provided by At-Large CTB members:

• FY 2015: \$752,185

Total funding for TA in Northern Virginia: \$4,691,532

Total funding requests for Northern Virginia: \$4,738,475



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## FRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Projects

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Federal Funding Request	TPB Funding Recommended	Notes	RAC	Rail
Arlington County	Ashlawn and Williamsburg Schools	\$400,000	\$400,000			
Fairfax County	Westbriar Elementary School	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000 provided by CTB		
Loudoun County	Various locations (nine schools)	\$413,018	\$413,018			
Reg	onal funding to SRTS projects	\$1,0	13,018			
Per	cent of FY 2015 MPO funding	35	%			

RAC = Regional Activity Center

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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Trail Connections**

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Federal Funding Request	TPB Funding Recommended	Notes	RAC	Rail
Arlington County	Four Mile Run Trail Connection	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000 provided by CTB	Υ	Υ
Fairfax County	Cinderbed Road Bikeway	\$400,000	\$400,000		Υ	Υ
Fairfax County	Cross County Trail – Lorton Arts	\$400,000	\$353,057	This project is recommended for partial funding		
Reg	ional funding to SRTS projects	\$95	3,057			
Per	cent of FY 2015 MPO funding	32	! %			

RAC = Regional Activity Center

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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Sidewalk/Facility Gap Projects**

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Federal Funding Request	TPB Funding Recommended	Notes	RAC	Rail
Arlington County	Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Accessibility Improvements	\$200,000	\$200,000	This project implements a 2012 TLC Study	Υ	Υ
Prince William County	Blackburn Road Sidewalk	\$560,000	\$560,000			
Regiona	funding to Sidewalk projects	\$760,000				
Per	cent of FY 2015 MPO funding	26	i %			

RAC = Regional Activity Center



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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Streetscape Projects**

Applicant Jurisdiction	Project	Federal Funding Request	TPB Funding Recommended	Notes	RAC	Rail
Town of Herndon	Herndon Historic Revitalization Project: Phase 3	\$301,584	\$6,584	\$295,000 provided by CTB	Υ	Υ
Town of Middleburg	Washington Street Streetscape Improvements	\$413,688	\$206,688	This project implements a 2013 TLC Study. \$207,000 provided by CTB.		
Regional fu	nding to Streetscape projects	\$21	3,272			
Per	cent of FY 2015 MPO funding	7	%			

RAC = Regional Activity Center

27 % of the of FY 2015 MPO funding is allocated to projects in Regional Activity Centers.



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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **Next Steps: Regional TA Program**

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

- Maryland: Currently soliciting projects for the second FY 2014 solicitation. Applications are due May 15
- District: DDOT and TPB staff will coordinate in the next several months to determine a solicitation timeline for FY 2015
- Virginia: Expect to participation in the FY 2016 solicitation this fall



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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

## **TPB Action Requested**

The TPB will be asked to adopt Resolution R17-2014 to approve projects for funding under the Virginia MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2015



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