



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Lamont B. Cobb, Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Approval of projects recommended for funding under the FY 2018
 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for Northern Virginia TPB jurisdictions
DATE: April 7, 2017

The federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program suballocates funding to the TPB for project selection in Northern Virginia through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TA Set Aside). The TPB worked with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to review projects in Northern Virginia. TPB staff organized a technical review panel to review the 18 TAP applications from the region’s Virginia jurisdictions and make funding recommendations.

The panel recommends seven projects for \$2,720,619 in funding. Staff will present the recommendations under a resolution to the TPB for approval.

Jurisdiction/Agency	Project	Recommendation
City of Alexandria	Holmes Run Connection Trail	\$424,619
National Park Service (Fairfax County)	Mount Vernon Trail Bridge 12 Replacement	\$262,500
Fairfax County	Providence District Bikeshare	\$400,000
Fairfax County	Van Dorn Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	\$400,000
Town of Herndon (Fairfax County)	Van Buren Street Multimodal Improvements	\$320,700
City of Falls Church	Washington and Old Dominion Trail Master Plan	\$248,800
Prince William County	Old Bridge Road Sidewalk	\$664,000

BACKGROUND

Under the FAST Act, the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program incorporates Transportation Alternatives set aside (TA Set Aside) funding for metropolitan planning organizations like the TPB to fund local projects. Per guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the TA Set Aside is administered and funded under the same guidelines as the former Transportation Alternatives Program. In addition, FAST extended TA Set Aside recipient eligibility to non-profit organizations, and made it possible for large MPOs to use up to 50% of their suballocated funds for “any project eligible under STBG.” The FAST Act provides funding for the TA Set Aside through FY 2020. More information on the TA Set Aside is available from FHWA at:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/.

For the National Capital Region, the program offers an opportunity to support and enhance regional planning activities. At the direction of the TPB, our region's TA Set Aside 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 and Region Forward. The regional component of Virginia's TA Set Aside application and the regional selection criteria are based on these priorities. These priorities include the promotion of non-motorized circulation within Regional Activity Centers and improved bicycle and pedestrian access to transit.

TPB staff works with the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Local Assistance Division to administer the TA Set Aside for Northern Virginia. Since the establishment of TAP in 2012, and the TA Set Aside in 2015, the TPB continues to combine its solicitations with the state departments of transportation in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

FY 2018 SOLICITATION FOR VIRGINIA

VDOT conducted the solicitation for TA Set Aside applications from Virginia. Applications were due electronically to the VDOT Local Assistance Division on November 1, 2016. For applicants from Northern Virginia, the VDOT application included a supplementary form requesting information about how projects responded to the TPB's regional priorities related to activity centers, transit station access, and multimodal transportation options.

In Northern Virginia, VDOT received 18 applications representing a total of \$10,675,117 in requested funding. These applications are eligible for statewide TA Set Aside funding as well as the TPB's sub-allocated funds. The TPB has \$2,720,619 in funding available. Virginia has \$10,046,006 for projects state-wide.

Virginia conducts 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. Large 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 is Arlington County Boardmember Mary Hynes. Ms. Hynes made her project selections in early March for the \$1 million allocated in her district. Her funding recommendations can be found attached to this memorandum.

PROJECT SELECTION

The TPB is responsible for completing the second step in the selection process noted above. To develop draft recommendations, TPB staff invited representatives from the District of Columbia and Maryland transportation planning departments to participate on the TPB's technical review panel. The panel met on March 20. Panel participants included:

- Michael Alvino, Bicycle Program Specialist, District Department of Transportation

- Karyn McAlister, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, Prince George's Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Michael Farrell, Senior Transportation Planner, COG/TPB Staff
- Lamont B. Cobb, Transportation Planner, COG/TPB Staff

Panel members individually reviewed and scored applications up to 100 points. The total score is a composite based on each reviewer's professional assessment (50pts) and regional selection criteria (50pts). The professional assessment is based on each panel member's transportation planning expertise, knowledge of transportation planning in the region, evaluation of the project budget, and project management experience. The regional criteria are rooted in TPB policies and programs, with the understanding that some projects would not meet all criteria. Regional selection criteria included the following:

- **Transportation options** (10pts): 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** (10pts): Does the project enhance walkability and accessibility within or between Regional Activity Centers?
- **Safe routes to school** (5pts): Does the project enhance safe bicycle and pedestrian access to elementary and middle schools? Have that submitted all the supplementary information for Safe Routes to School-based projects?
- **Disadvantaged communities** (5pts): Does the project promote accessibility for disadvantaged communities?
- **Persons with disabilities** (5pts): Is the project largely intended to promote accessibility for people with disabilities?
- **Local commitment** (5pts): Does the application provide local matches greater than the 20 percent minimum requirement? Does the application note any other local resources or priority given to the project?

At the review panel's meeting on March 20, each member provided rankings of the project applications under consideration as high/medium/low based on the total scores. The panel then grouped and evaluated the projects for funding based on the rankings.

At the end of the March 20 meeting, the review panel recommended seven projects for funding. The attachments to this memo include a map of the recommended projects, as well as a list of all the submitted applications. VDOT has a list of all the submitted applications publicly available at: <https://smartportal.virginiahb2.org/#/public/apps>.

NEXT STEPS

Following the TPB's action on April 19, TPB staff will forward information regarding the selected projects to VDOT for inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six Year Improvement Plan for Transportation. The CTB will also consider funding the remaining Northern Virginia applications with the statewide TA Set Aside funding. Once all selections are finalized, VDOT staff will work with applicants to administer funding. VDOT will likely open the application period for FY 2019 TA Set Aside projects later in Summer 2017.

The TPB is currently participating in MDOT's solicitation for FY 2018 TAP projects. The deadline for those applications is May 15. SHA will open the online application from their website in early April.

DDOT intends to issue a solicitation for projects in April.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

for the FY 2018 TA Set Aside in Northern Virginia
\$2,720,619 in funding for eight projects

Herndon -
Van Buren Street
Multimodal Improvements
\$320,700

Fairfax County -
Providence District
Bikeshare
\$400,000

Falls Church -
W&OD Trail
Master Plan
\$248,800

Alexandria -
Holmes Run Connection
\$424,619

Fairfax County -
Van Dorn Bicycle and
Pedestrian Improvements
\$400,000

Prince William County -
Old Bridge Road Sidewalks
\$664,000

National Park Service -
Mount Vernon Trail
Bridge 12 Replacement
\$262,500



**FY 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside
for Northern Virginia**

**Northern Virginia TA Set Aside Funds Available: \$2,720,619
Total Requested Funding: \$10,675,117**

Project Name	Jurisdiction	Description	Funding Requested	CTB District Funding	Panel Recommendation
Holmes Run Connection Trail	Alexandria	Trail connection on the south side of Holmes Run between North Ripley and North Pickett Streets. Facilities will include permeable trail, ADA accessible curb ramps, and wayfinding signage.	\$800,000		\$424,619
Mount Vernon Bridge 12 Replacement	National Park Service (Fairfax County)	The removal and rehabilitation of the existing Bridge 12, along the route of the Mount Vernon Trail in Fairfax County. Construction of a new bridge 50ft west of the existing structure	\$525,000	\$262,500	\$262,500
North Sycamore St Multimodal Improvements	Arlington	Enhancements to 0.4mi of North Sycamore St between Lee Highway and 19th St N, adjacent to the East Falls Church Metrorail Station. New facilities will include protected bicycle lanes and redesigned intersections	\$800,000		
Cinderbed Road Bikeway	Fairfax County	Construction of a 3.1 mile parkway from the Fairfax County Parkway to the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station. Trail will be a combination of asphalt trail, and on-road bike facilities following an abandoned rail right-of-way	\$800,000		
Providence District Bikeshare	Fairfax County	Purchase of 15 bikeshare stations with 120 rental bikes for use in the Providence District communities of Tysons and Merrifield.	\$400,000		\$400,000
Van Dorn Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Fairfax County	Improvements to an existing path from South Van Dorn Street and Oakwood Road to an existing pedestrian bridge under I-495. New facilities including a 10' shared-use path, signal modification, new signalized crosswalk, and additional trail modifications	\$400,000		\$400,000
Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility in Clifton Historic District	Town of Clifton (Fairfax County)	Enhance the function of Main Street as a scenic and historic byway with landscaping, signage, crosswalks and historic lighting. Project will make pedestrian facilities ADA compliant.	\$249,950		

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Van Buren Street Multimodal Improvements	Town of Herndon (Fairfax County)	Improvements to a quarter mile section of Van Buren Street between Herndon Parkway and Alabama Drive. The project includes an off-street cycle track, improved sidewalks and curb ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, lighting, and landscaping.	\$320,700		\$320,700
Church St NE Sidewalk Extension	Town of Vienna (Fairfax County)	Construction of 300 feet of curb, gutter and sidewalk where it currently does not exist.	\$528,800		
Park Street NE Sidewalk Extension	Town of Vienna (Fairfax County)	Construction of 800 feet of curb, gutter and sidewalk where it currently does not exist.	\$610,440		
Freeman Store Pedestrian Bridge	Town of Vienna (Fairfax County)	Design and construction of pedestrian bridge from existing W&OD Trail to the historic Freeman Store. Bridge will also provide ADA accessibility to Freeman Store. Bridge will replace the bridge which had been torn down due to deterioration.	\$139,520	\$74,526	
Washington & Old Dominion Trail Master Plan	Falls Church	Improvements of four at-grade crossings of the W&OD trail to address safety, separation of walking and biking modes, lighting, plazas and trailheads, and landscaping.	\$497,600	\$248,800	\$248,800
Pedestrian Safety Improvements & Sidewalk Replacement on Route 7	Town of Hamilton (Loudoun County)	Improvements to existing sidewalks along Route 7 including ADA compliant ramps at crosswalks, replacement of old sidewalks, and ADA compliant walkways along existing facilities	\$121,570	\$121,570	
Historic Hillsboro GapWay Shared Use Path	Town of Hillsboro (Loudoun County)	Construction of a 0.22 mile shared use path on the north side of Route 9 and sidewalk on the south side. The new facilities connect to the GapWay, as well as other planned safety related pedestrian improvements.	\$472,649		
Colchester Road Sidewalk	Prince William County	Design and construction of 2300ft of sidewalk on the west side of Colchester Road between Randall Lane and Featherstone Dr	\$1,760,000		
Dumfries Road Asphalt Trail	Prince William County	Construction of 1300ft of shared use asphalt trail along the west side of Dumfries Road from Talon Drive to Van Buren Road	\$999,680		

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Old Bridge Road Sidewalk	Prince William County	Construction of 950ft of sidewalk on the south side of Old Bridge Road from Tacketts Mill Shopping Center entrance to Minnieville Road.	\$664,000		\$664,000
Opitz Boulevard Sidewalk Project	Prince William County	Construction of 1300ft of sidewalk along the south side of Opitz Boulevard between Potomac Center Blvd and Route 1.	\$585,208	\$292,604	