

ITEM 7 – Action

July 21, 2021

Regional Roadway Safety Program Approval

Action: Approve Regional Roadway Safety Program technical assistance recipients.

Background: Staff solicited applications for the initial round of Regional Roadway Safety Program technical assistance between January 19 and March 22, 2021. The board will be briefed and asked to approve the applications that are being recommended for FY 2021 funding.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Jon Schermann, Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: FY 2021 Regional Roadway Safety Program Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations
DATE: July 15, 2021

This memo provides information on the recommendations of the Selection Panel for the initial round of technical assistance under the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP). The panel met in May and recommended five projects for funding. The TPB is scheduled to vote on the panel's recommendations on July 21.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2021

A total of \$250,000 in FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) funding was authorized for the Regional Roadway Safety Program. The RRSP Selection Panel recommends five projects for funding.

The recommended slate of projects supports the key TPB safety priorities:

- All projects address one or more of the funding priorities outlined in TPB Resolution R3-2021.
- All projects either directly or indirectly encourage improved road user behavior.
- All projects work to identify and/or design safety countermeasures.
- All projects are either entirely within or connect to Equity Emphasis Areas.

Projects recommended for funding:

MD 650 High Injury Network Safety Study and Design

Montgomery County, \$60,000

This project will conduct a roadway safety audit and subsequent design of selected recommendations for safety improvements along MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) from I-495 (Capital Beltway) to MD 320 (Piney Branch Road) in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Roadway Safety Audits and Design Recommendation for County Maintained High Injury Network

Prince George's County, \$40,000

This project will conduct roadway safety audits to identify traffic safety issues faced by pedestrians and bicyclists on several county-maintained roadway segments. The project will also provide design recommendations for safety improvements along these roadway segments.

Bowie Road Safety Audit

City of Laurel, \$30,000

This project will conduct a roadway safety audit on Bowie Road, a 0.7-mile roadway that connects US 1 to MD 197 in City of Laurel. The audit will examine all aspects of roadway safety and traffic signal effectiveness to eliminate hazards for all road users, including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Arlington / Virginia School Zone Speed Camera Guidelines

Arlington County, \$60,000

This project will develop guidelines to help identify, prioritize, and implement speed cameras in school zones. The project will include review and incorporation of best practices and lessons learned from other jurisdictions that have undertaken similar efforts. Guidelines will be data driven and equitable.

Herndon Parkway (Van Buren to Spring) Complete Street Safety Improvements

Fairfax County, \$60,000

This project will prepare a Complete Street multimodal design for Herndon Parkway, between Van Buren Street and Spring Street, that includes applicable safety countermeasures resulting in safer infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and transit users travelling between the W&OD Trail, Herndon Metrorail Station, adjacent Equity Emphasis Area (EEA) and the surrounding region.

APPLICATION PROCESS

On January 19, 2021, the TPB issued a call for projects for the initial round (FY 2021) of Regional Roadway Safety Program technical assistance. The deadline for application submissions was March 22, 2021. Applicants were invited to submit optional abstracts which provided them an opportunity for TPB staff to review project concepts and provide feedback on how to develop stronger applications.

Like the TLC program, technical assistance was offered in amounts between \$30,000 and \$60,000 for planning projects, and up to \$80,000 for 30% design projects. The Call for Projects and the application form itself placed a focus on TPB priorities, including those described in TPB Resolution R3-2021.

The TPB received 11 applications (four from Maryland jurisdictions and seven from Virginia jurisdictions) totaling \$700,000 in funding requests for this round. \$250,000 is authorized. This includes three funding sources:

- \$150,000 from the TPB's FY 2021 UPWP core regional planning funds
- \$35,000 of Maryland UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$35,000 of Virginia UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$35,000 of District of Columbia UPWP Technical Assistance

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel included the following members:

- Usman Ali, Federal Highway Administration – DC Division
- Tim Kerns, Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Azadeh Norouzi, District Department of Transportation
- Stephen Read, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Jon Schermann, COG/TPB staff

The selection panel met on May 6 to review the project applications and develop a list of recommended projects for this round of technical assistance. The selection panel applied TPB funding priorities as well as their own extensive knowledge of roadway safety to assess the proposed projects. The selection panel members individually reviewed and scored each application in advance of the meeting and then used their scores to assign each application a high, medium, or low score. The rankings served as a starting point for the panel's collective discussion.

Based upon a consensus developed at the May 6 meeting, the selection panel developed a list of five 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 the list, the panel strove to equitably allocate the funding distribution 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 scalability provided in the applications.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

On July 21, 2021, the TPB will be asked to approve the proposed slate of five projects for technical assistance funding under the FY 2021 Regional Roadway Safety Program. Upon approval of the projects, TPB staff will begin to coordinate with the jurisdictions to begin the consultant selection process from a pre-qualified list of consultants. All projects will begin soon after consultant contracts are signed. The projects will be scheduled for completion by June 30, 2022.

For further questions regarding the Regional Roadway Safety program, contact Jon Schermann (jschermann@mwkog.org; 202-962-3317).

REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

FY 2021 Technical Assistance

Jon Schermann
Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
July 21, 2021



Regional Roadway Safety Program

- Initial round
- Established and funded by the TPB via Resolution R3-2021 adopted July 2021
- Promotes TPB roadway safety priorities
- Program Funding (FY 2021)
 - Core UPWP: \$150,000
 - Maryland Technical Assistance: \$35,000
 - Virginia Technical Assistance: \$35,000
 - District of Columbia Technical Assistance: \$30,000
 - **Total Program Funding: \$250,000**



Solicitation

- Application solicitation between January 19 – March 22, 2021
 - Optional abstracts were due February 12
- 11 applications were received for \$700,000 in funding requests
 - 4 applications from Maryland jurisdictions and 7 applications from Virginia jurisdictions



Selection

- Selection Panel
 - TPB staff + safety officials from DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, and FHWA
- Individual Evaluations



- Discussion: consensus recommendations - sought balance between Maryland and Virginia



Overview of Recommendations

- Total funding: \$250,000
- 5 applications recommended for funding
 - All projects address one or more of the funding priorities outlined in TPB Resolution R3-2021.
 - All projects either directly or indirectly encourage improved road user behavior.
 - All projects work to identify and/or design safety countermeasures.
 - All projects are either entirely within or connect to Equity Emphasis Areas.
 - Three projects are from Maryland jurisdictions and two are from Virginia jurisdictions.



Draft Funding Recommendations

Jurisdiction Name	Project	Panel Recommendation
Montgomery County	MD 650 High Injury Network Safety Study and Design	\$60,000
Prince George's County	Roadway Safety Audits and Design Recommendation for County Maintained High Injury Network	\$40,000
City of Laurel	Bowie Road Safety Audit	\$30,000
Arlington County	Arlington / Virginia School Zone Speed Camera Guidelines	\$60,000
Fairfax County	Herndon Parkway (Van Buren to Spring) Complete Street Safety Improvements	\$60,000



Next Steps

- Begin consultant selection process in July
- Open FY 2022 application period in August



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