



TLC Program Application Period Now Open

The TPB is now accepting applications for the FY 2023 round of the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program. The deadline for applications is February 21, 2022. The deadline for submitting abstracts for proposed projects, which is an optional step, is January 10, 2022.

For more information, and to submit an online application, go to mwcog.org/tlc.

Since 2007, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) has funded small planning projects at the community level through the TLC Program. 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?

The TLC Program is designed to assist local jurisdictions as they work through challenges like these, and to share success stories and proven tools with local governments and agencies across the region.

Solicitation Schedule for FY 2023

Application period opens: December 17, 2021

Abstracts due: January 10, 2022

Applications due: February 21, 2022

Panel recommendations: March–April, 2022

TPB approves projects: April–May, 2022

Consultant selection: June–July 2022

Contracting process: August 2022

Project kick-off meetings: Fall 2022

Application Process

Any local jurisdiction in the National Capital Region that is a member of the Transportation Planning Board is eligible to apply. Projects are eligible to receive between \$30,000 and \$60,000 in assistance for planning projects and up to \$80,000 for design projects. Recipients will receive short-term consultant services. They will not receive direct financial assistance.

The FY 2023 application period is open between December 17 and February 21, 2022. Potential applicants may also submit an optional abstract by January 10, 2022. TPB staff will provide preliminary feedback on the abstracts approximately one week after their submittal.

A panel of industry experts and COG/TPB staff will review the application submissions and recommend projects to the TPB for funding. The panel's recommendations will represent a cross-section of jurisdictions throughout the region. The TPB is scheduled to approve the applications in April or May.

Projects will begin in the fall of 2022 and must be completed by June 30, 2023.

The TPB is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization 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 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

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 Near High-Capacity Transit: The TPB encourages projects that support balanced development in the region's 141 [Activity Centers](#), which are places that the TPB and COG have prioritized for future growth, and near transit stations. Such projects may promote increased employment or more housing, especially affordable housing.

Access for Low-Income and Minority Communities: The TPB has identified locations, called [Equity Emphasis Areas](#) (EEAs), that have high concentrations of low-income and minority populations. The COG Board of Directors adopted EEAs as a key planning principle to guide future growth and investment decisions. The TLC Program encourages applications focused on these areas.

Access to Transit: The TLC Program encourages projects that improve access to [high-capacity transit stations](#). Such access improvements may include pedestrian, bicycle and other micromobility connections, as well as short-range transit connections. The TPB anticipates there will be nearly 300 high-capacity transit stations in the region by 2045. In particular, the program encourages projects that are in [Transit Access Focus Areas](#), which are station areas that the TPB has identified as opportune locations for ped/bike improvements.

Key Regional Trails: The TLC Program encourages projects on the [National Capital Regional Trail Network](#), which, once completed, will be a regional system of trails that extends into every jurisdiction in our region.

Planning: \$30,000 – \$60,000 in funding

The TPB encourages planning projects that are creative, forward-thinking, and reflect TPB policies and priorities. Projects may include (but are not limited to):

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

Design: up to \$80,000 in funding

Design projects can cover any of the planning project categories and should have undergone a local planning process. Projects should be ready for focused design or preliminary engineering work. TLC funds can help projects reach up to 30 percent design completion or make progress toward that phase of project development. Project categories may include (but are not limited to):

- Cost estimates of improvements
- Engineering systems description and analysis
- Preliminary or schematic drawings with site plans and elevations
- Rendering of site massing, elevation, or facility interior/exterior spaces
- Site survey

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