

ITEM 10 –Action

April 19, 2017

Approval of Projects Recommended for Funding under the
FY 2018 Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for
Northern Virginia TPB Jurisdictions

Staff

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution R21-2017 to approve projects for funding under the Federal Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for Northern Virginia for FY 2018.

Issues: None

Background: A portion of the federal Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (also referred to as the Transportation Alternatives Program) is sub-allocated to the TPB for project selection in Northern Virginia. The board will be briefed on the projects recommended by a technical review panel for funding as part of the FY 2018 project solicitation conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and asked to approve the recommended projects.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROJECTS FOR TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE PROGRAM FUNDING UNDER THE SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2018 IN
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing American's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, the FAST Act's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set Aside) Program, which is part of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), provides a portion of funding based on the relative share of the total State population sub-allocated to large urbanized areas, and the MPO is required "to develop a competitive process to allow eligible entities to submit projects for funding ... in consultation with the relevant State"; and

WHEREAS, the TA Set Aside Program provides funding for transportation programs and projects defined as eligible per section 1109 of the FAST Act; and

WHEREAS, the TA Set Aside Program provides an opportunity to fund projects that implement regional priorities and complement planning activities such as the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, which promotes improved non-motorized circulation within Regional Activity Centers and improved pedestrian and bicycle access to transit; and

WHEREAS, the TA Set Aside is a complementary component of the TPB's Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program, which supports planning-related projects and events of TPB member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, a solicitation for TA Set Aside projects was conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation from August 1 through November 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the TPB's TA Set Aside Selection Panel met on March 20, 2017 and recommended fully or partially funding seven of the applications received based on project readiness and eligibility and each project's ability to meet the regional selection criteria; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2017, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the recommended projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD approves the projects for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program for FY 2018 in Northern Virginia as described in the attached materials.



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee

FROM: Lamont B. Cobb, Transportation Planner
John Swanson, 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 13, 2017

SUMMARY

Under the federal Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TA Set Aside) Program, the TPB is responsible for selecting projects using sub-allocated funding for Suburban Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The TA Set Aside, which is part of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, was previously known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

For FY 2018, the TPB is responsible for project selection for \$2,720,619 in Virginia. A selection panel has recommended that the following projects be approved by the TPB at its meeting on April 19, 2017:

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 provides Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TA Set Aside) funding for large metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) like the TPB to fund local projects. In addition to the funds that are sub-allocated to MPOs, a portion of the TA Set Aside funding is reserved for statewide project selection, which is conducted by the state departments of transportation.

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. 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 TA Set Aside offers the region the ability to fund projects that support regional priorities and goals based on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan and Region Forward. Applicants from the National Capital Region are asked to show how their projects will serve these priorities when they seek TA Set Aside funds. The priorities also provide the basis for the selection criteria that the TPB's selection panel uses when it reviews and recommends projects for funding.

FY 2018 SOLICITATION FOR 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. As part of the annual review process, TPB staff works with the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Local Assistance Division to administer the TA Set Aside for Northern Virginia.

For this current round, 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 including promoting non-motorized circulation within Activity Centers, enhancing access to transit stations, and increasing 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 (those designated as "Transportation Management Areas") select projects for sub-allocated funds;
3. The at-large members of the CTB select projects for the remainder of the statewide money.

Mary Hynes, the CTB District Member for Northern Virginia, made her project selections in early March for the \$1 million allocated to her district. Her funding recommendations can be found in the table 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 (50 points) and regional selection criteria (50 points). 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? Has the applicant 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 approved projects to VDOT for inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six Year Improvement Plan for Transportation. The CTB will also consider whether to award funding, using the statewide TA Set Aside funds, to the remaining Northern Virginia applications. Once all selections are finalized, VDOT staff will work with applicants to administer funding. VDOT will open the application period for FY 2019 TA Set Aside projects later this year.

For both the Maryland and the District of Columbia, the solicitations for the FY 2018 TA Set Aside funding are currently open. The deadlines for both solicitations is May 15.

**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		

**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
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		

**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
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	

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





TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

Northern Virginia Project Recommendations

John Swanson
Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
April 19, 2017



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Agenda Item #10

Overview

- TA Set Aside
- TLC Program
- Virginia Selection Process
- TPB Selection Process
- FY 2018 Project Recommendations
- Next Steps



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

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TA Set Aside

- TA Set Aside is funded through Surface Transportation Program Block Grant
- FHWA provides the funds as **reimbursable aid** (it's not a grant!) and requires a 20% local match
- Eligible projects and applicants remain unchanged from 2012 MAP-21 TAP, **but**
 - Non-profits are eligible to apply
 - All STP Block Grant project types are eligible for the TA-Set Aside
- 2015 FAST Act funds the TA Set Aside through FY 2020
- Large MPOs (pop >200,000) work with state DOTs to administer funds

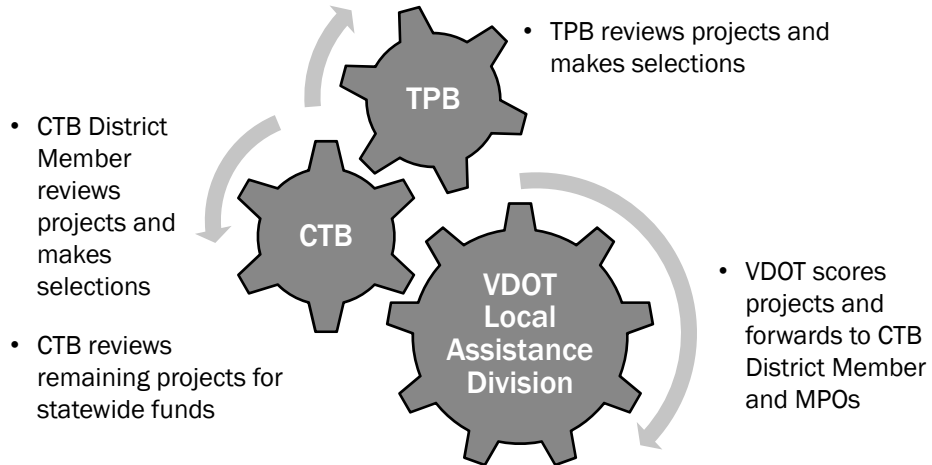


TLC Program

- TA Set Aside is a component of the TLC Program
 - Technical Assistance
 - TLC PeerX (Peer Exchange Network)
 - Reston Bikeshare Example
- Regional Goals and Priorities
 - Multimodal transportation options
 - Regional activity centers

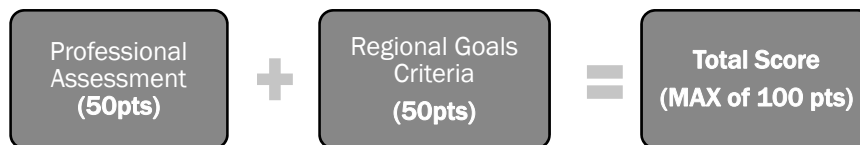


Virginia Project Selection



TPB Selection Process

- Selection Panel included TPB staff, District Department of Transportation, and Prince George's Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Panel members individually scored projects



- Based on scores, panel members rank projects “High/Medium/Low”
- Selection panel meeting on March 25, panel used rankings to help evaluate and prioritize projects for funding

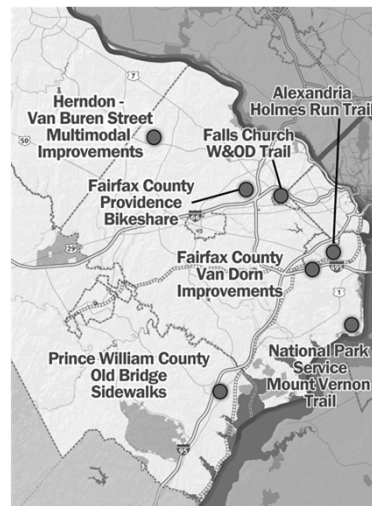


Regional Goals Criteria

- Multimodal Transportation Options for non-drivers
- Regional Activity Centers
- Access to Transit
- Safe Routes to School
- Disadvantaged Communities
- People with Disabilities
- Local Commitment (% match in application)

FY 2018 Project Recommendations

- TPB received **\$10,675,117** in funding requests for **18** Northern Virginia projects
- TPB's STP Set Aside sub-allocation was **\$2,720,619**
- **Seven projects** recommended for funding
 - three projects in or connecting to regional activity centers
 - three trail projects
 - three projects supporting improved bicycle and pedestrian access on existing roads



FY 2018 Project Recommendations



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

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FY 2018 Project Recommendations



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FY 2018 Project Recommendations



Town of Herndon
- Van Buren
Multimodal
Improvements
\$320,700

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

FY 2018 Project Recommendations



Prince William
County - Old
Bridge Rd
Sidewalk
\$664,000

Next Steps

- **Virginia:** Forward recommendations to VDOT, pending approval of TPB
 - CTB makes recommendations on statewide TA Set Aside funds in June
 - VDOT begins FY 2019 solicitation in Summer 2017
- **District of Columbia and Maryland:** TPB will coordinate with DDOT and SHA staff.

John Swanson

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Photo Credits

- Slide 1: Mount Vernon Trail (National Park Service/Creative Commons)
- Slide 4: Bikeshare Ribbon Cutting (Fairfax County for Better Bicycle/<https://twitter.com/BikeFairfax/status/789545211479326720>)
- Slide 8: TA Set Aside Project Map (Lamont B. Cobb/COG)
- Slide 9: Birds Eye View of Holmes Run (Bing Maps/<https://www.bing.com/maps>)
- Slide 9: Birds Eye View of Mount Vernon Trail (Bing Maps/<https://www.bing.com/maps>)
- Slide 10: Bikeshare: (Fairfax County/<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/>) Slide 10: Street View of Van Dorn St (Bing Maps/<https://www.bing.com/maps>)
- Slide 11: Van Buren St (Town of Herndon/TA Set Aside Application)
- Slide 11: Trail Intersection (City of Falls church/TA Set Aside Application)
- Slide 12: Old Bridge Road (Bing Maps/<https://www.bing.com/maps>)

