



MEMBERS:

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council

FROM: Paul Brewster, Senior Planner

DATE: February 23, 2018

SUBJECT: CY 2018 Federal Transportation Grant Program Call for Projects Process

	Program Area	Mission Statement
X	MPO/RTPO	
	Core Services	
	Contract Services	
	Grant Services	

PURPOSE

To approve a Call for Projects Process to award federal transportation grant funding to regional priority proposals for federal fiscal years 2020-2022.

Summary:

- This spring, TRPC will issue a Call for Projects to award \$6,709,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP), \$709,000 in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), and \$958,000 in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)/STP Block Grant Set Aside) federal grant program funds for FFY 2020 – 2022.
- Applications will be accepted over 8 weeks from March 5 to April 27.
- On February 14, the Transportation Policy Board reviewed the funding process outlined in this memorandum and recommends TRPC approve the Call for Projects process, as presented.
- The process schedule proposes that TRPC will review projects during the June 1 meeting and consider the Policy Board recommendation and select projects at the July 6 meeting.
- The details of a proposed CY 2018 Call for Projects Process are outlined in this memorandum.

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the proposed Calendar Year 2018 Federal Transportation Grant Program Call for Projects.



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BACKGROUND

CY 2018 Call for Projects Process

TRPC will issue a competitive call for projects in spring 2018 to award funding from three Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant programs for regional transportation priority projects for Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2023.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

Eligible Applicants: Counties, cities, towns, tribes, transit agencies, and port districts. Non-traditional partners are not eligible to apply directly for the STP grants, however eligible applicants may partner with non-traditional applicants. Applicants must be able to administer all aspects of project management with FHWA grants. Applicants with Certification Acceptance (CA) status authorized by Washington State Department of Transportation meet this requirement. Applicants without CA authorization are required to partner with a CA sponsor prior to submitting a grant application. CA approved agencies are encouraged to assist non-CA agencies through an interlocal agreement.

Location: In general, STP funded projects must be on routes with a federal functional classification of major collector or higher. Projects on local roads or rural minor collectors are typically ineligible. There are many exceptions to this requirement including: recreational trails, pedestrian and bicycle projects; and safe routes to school projects.

Funding Priorities: In general, projects that add road capacity will not be considered. Historically TRPC has sought proposals that fulfill one or more of the following funding priorities:

1. Promote safety
2. Preserve and maintain transportation facilities
3. Enhance multimodal level of service and overall system efficiency

Funding Available by Grant Program			
1. Surface Transportation Program (STP)*			
	2020	2021	2022
Cumulative	\$1,626,000	\$4,168,000	\$6,709,000
Yearly	\$1,626,000	\$2,542,000	\$2,541,000
2. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)			
	2020	2021	2022
Cumulative	\$0	\$354,000	\$709,000
Yearly	\$0	\$354,000	\$355,000
3. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP aka STP Block Grant Set Aside)			
	2020	2021	2022
Cumulative	\$361,000	\$659,000	\$958,000
Yearly	\$361,000	\$298,000	\$299,000
*TRPC is required to distribute federal STP grant awards as follows:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% to urban areas / \$5,031,750 • 8% to rural areas / \$536,720 • 17% is flexible for urban or rural / \$1,140,530 			

Match Requirement: Project proposals require a minimum 13.5 percent match. FHWA grant requests cannot exceed 86.5 percent of the total project cost.

Funding Limits: There are no limits in the total dollar grant amount an applicant may request. The Council seeks proposals that will fulfill regional transportation priorities. Recognizing that every community has unfunded projects within their Transportation Improvement Program, the Council intends to fund proposals from as many communities as possible. Applicants requesting a significant share of the available grant funding will need to clearly demonstrate that their proposal will offer measurable region wide benefits. Applicants may request Advance Construction (AC) on their proposals.

Application Limit: There is no limit on the number of proposals an applicant may submit. However, applicants must document their ability to obligate their proposal within the federal fiscal year indicated on their application. It is TRPC's intent to meet its annual obligation target, fulfill urban and rural distribution thresholds, and award funding to multiple communities.

For more information, view the FHWA STP Fact Sheet: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/stbgfs.cfm>

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

Eligible Applicants: Local governments, special districts, and non-traditional partners. The same conditions for CA status in STP apply to CMAQ grants.

Location: Proposals must be within the Lacey/Olympia/Tumwater PM10 Air Quality Maintenance Area.

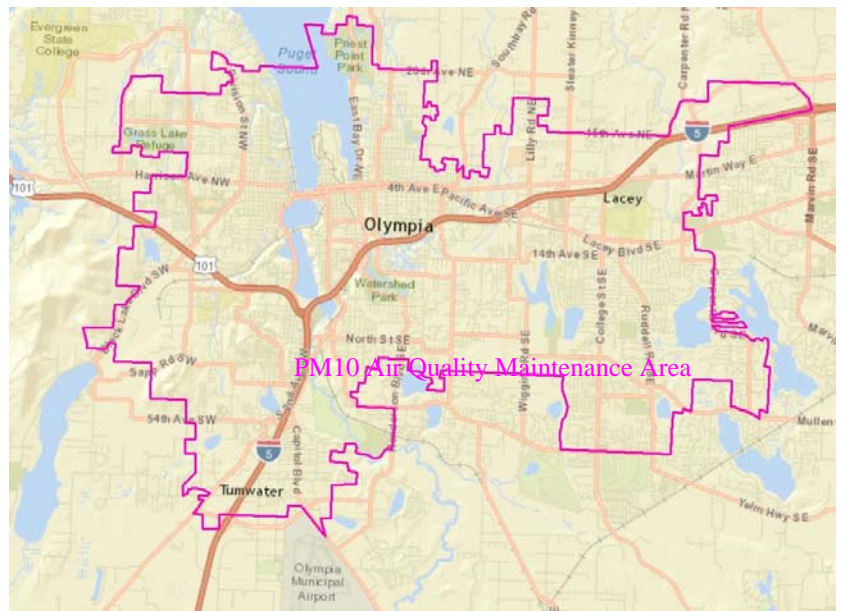
Funding Priorities: Capital projects or programs must identify data to be used to measure reductions in congestion or improvements in air quality, particularly PM 10 emissions reductions. Proposals that demonstrate benefits across jurisdictional boundaries, consist of multiple partners, and support the goals and objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Thurston, or other regional transportation policies are desired.

Match Requirement: Project proposals require a minimum 13.5 percent match. FHWA grant requests cannot exceed 86.5 percent of the total project cost.

Funding Limits: There is no limits in the grant dollar amount an applicant may request.

Application Limit: There is no limit on the number of proposals an applicant may submit.

For more information, view the FHWA CMAQ Fact Sheet: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/cmaqfs.cfm>



Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Eligible Applicants: Counties, cities, towns, tribes, transit agencies, port districts, and non-traditional partners are eligible to apply directly for TAP grants. The same conditions for CA status in STP apply to TAP grants. Non-traditional applicants are encouraged to partner with city, county, or transit agency partners to meet federal grant administration requirements.

Location: Project eligibility includes a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity.

Funding Priorities: Proposals that demonstrate benefits across jurisdictional boundaries, consist of multiple partners, and support the goals and objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Thurston, or other regional transportation policies are desired.

Match Requirement: Project proposals require a minimum 13.5 percent match. FHWA grant requests cannot exceed 86.5 percent of the total project cost.

Funding Limits: There is no limits in the grant dollar amount an applicant may request.

Application Limit: Due to limited funding, only one proposal per applicant will be accepted.

For more information, view the FHWA TAP Fact Sheet:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm>

2018 Call for Projects Schedule

Date	Activity
February 14	TPB Briefing on Process – Action: Recommend Grant Process to TRPC
March 2	TRPC Briefing on Process – Action: Approval of Call for Projects Process
March 5 – April 27	Call for Projects – Applications Accepted, TRPC offers support to interested applicants
May 17	Technical Advisory Committee Application Review
May 14 – 25	Public Comment Period
June 1	TRPC Briefing on Proposals Received
June 13	TPB Proposal Review – Action: Funding Recommendation to TRPC
July 6	TRPC Proposal and TPB Funding Recommendation Review – Action: Project Selection

Application Assistance

TRPC staff will distribute a Call for Projects announcement via email, website, and social media to Communities and prospective applicants. Application materials and guidance will be accessible from TRPC's website. Staff will assist interested applicants, answer questions, and offer information about CA sponsorship to non-traditional partners. Applicants will have eight weeks to prepare and submit their applications.

Project Review and Selection Process

Technical Review

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will assess proposals for financial feasibility, compliance with federal eligibility requirements, and the practicality of the proposal's obligation schedule. The TAC will also perform a generalized peer review of each proposal's scope including the engineering and design, right of way, and construction phases, if applicable. All applicants are encouraged to attend the technical review meeting to answer questions. Applicants are provided feedback with any issues discovered during the technical review process. Applicants will be afforded an opportunity to resubmit applications to resolve minor issues discovered during the review.

Public Comment

All eligible project applications will be available for public review and comment. Public comments will be solicited through TRPC.org, social media, and email. Staff will accept all written comments received by the specified deadline. Proposal information will be posted online and printed materials can be made available upon request. All public comments will be shared with the Transportation Policy Board and the Council.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Review and Recommendation

The TPB will receive a packet containing all the eligible proposals prior to their meeting. Staff will provide members a short briefing on each proposal. A significant portion of the TPB's June meeting will be dedicated to a policy review and discussion of the proposals. TPB members will consider any TAC feedback or recommendations and evaluate and identify proposals that strongly support the goals and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan, Sustainable Thurston, and other regional objectives. For the STP grant program, the Council will only consider proposals that promote safety, preserve existing transportation infrastructure, and enhance multimodal efficiency. Applicants will have an opportunity to respond to TPB member's questions, if necessary. The TPB will formulate and approve a funding recommendation to the Council.

TRPC Review and Selection Process

In June, staff will provide the Council a brief overview of each proposal received. In July, the Council will consider the TPB's funding recommendation and conduct a final review, discussion, and approval of projects for grant awards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the proposed Calendar Year 2018 Federal Transportation Grant Program Call for Projects.

REQUESTED ACTION

On February 14, the Transportation Policy Board reviewed the proposed Call for Projects Process. The TPB recommends TRPC approve the process as presented in this memorandum.