# 2018 Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Application – Limit one proposal per applicant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT TITLE:</th>
<th>School Walk Route Mapping for North Thurston, Olympia, and Tumwater Schools</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT SPONSOR</td>
<td>North Thurston Public Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>John Suessman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>(360)412-4250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jsuessman@nthurston.k12.wa.us">jsuessman@nthurston.k12.wa.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT CO-SPONSOR</td>
<td>Olympia School District and Tumwater School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Rhonda Morton (OSD); Cally Stroud (TSD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>(360) 596-7700 (OSD); (360)709-7700 (TSD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmorton@osd.wednet.edu">rmorton@osd.wednet.edu</a>; <a href="mailto:cally.stroud@tumwater.k12.wa.us">cally.stroud@tumwater.k12.wa.us</a></td>
</tr>
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**ELIGIBILITY (check all that apply)**

- Project elements meet all regional eligibility requirements  
- Project elements and administration meet all federal eligibility requirements  
- Applicant can demonstrate ability to obligate funding as proposed

*Answering ‘No’ to any eligibility item above will disqualify the proposal.*

**STATUS OF EXISTING FEDERAL PROJECTS**

- Does the applicant have any other federal funded projects underway?  
  Yes  
  No

*If yes to either, attach separate documentation describing status of each project including project name, funding source, year of award, progress to date, future obligation commitments and strategy for meeting those obligation commitments in addition to those associated with new project funding.*

**YEAR OF OBLIGATION (Select the federal fiscal year the project will obligate)***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advance Construction</strong></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
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*Applicants are expected obligate their project on time if the proposal is selected.*

**TYPE OF PROJECT (Select one “Primary” and all “Secondary” types that apply)**

- Safe Routes to School project or program  
- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and/or bicycles  
- Preservation and/or conversion of abandoned railway corridors for bike/pedestrian trails  
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas  
- Recreational Trails Program (Section 206 of title 23)  
- Inventory, control and removal of outdoor advertising  
- Preservation & rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures, facilities  
- Vegetation management in ROW to control invasive species or control erosion  
- Archaeological activities related to impacts from transportation projects  
- Environmental mitigation to address stormwater associated with highway runoff  
- Environmental mitigation to reduce wildlife mortality or improve habitat connectivity

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2018 TRPC Regional Surface Transportation Program Grant Application, page: 1
**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Brief description (~ 150 words) of proposal identifying problem or need, how the proposal will address it, and anticipated benefits. This is a high-level summary suitable for reports and on-line descriptions. Detailed project information is provided on pages 4 and 5.

Washington requires school districts to determine the walk area for each school and involve as many of the following groups as possible to identify walk routes: parents, school administrators, law enforcement, traffic engineers, public health, and others (WAC 392-141-340). Schools are required to identify walking routes from each neighborhood to each elementary school (RCW 28A.160.160(5)) and review routes every two years. While school districts are fulfilling this basic requirement, the district maps are not family friendly or readily accessible to households seeking information for planning safe routes to school. School route maps are useful for encouraging students and families to walk or ride bikes to school safely and reduce the number of vehicles driving to and from schools. Such maps also play a role in assisting districts, their families, cities, and the county with identify school transportation needs such as filling in sidewalk gaps, installing street crossing improvements, and school bus route planning.

TRPC and Intercity Transit in partnership through the Walk N' Roll Program will create detailed school walk route maps using an interdisciplinary stakeholder process. There are 31 elementary schools in North Thurston, Olympia, and Tumwater school districts. This project will formalize a partnership between the school districts, TRPC, Intercity Transit, and community stakeholders to develop effective and user-friendly school walk route maps for every elementary and several middle schools within the three districts. The maps will be reviewed and updated every two years, as necessary.

**SUPPORT FOR RECOGNIZED REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

Identify ways in which the proposed project supports the goals and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan, implementation of Sustainable Thurston transportation initiatives, or other regional initiatives. Examples of other initiatives include, but are not limited to, The Thurston Regional Trails Plan, Urban Corridor Communities and associated District Plans, Healthy Kids Safe Streets Action Plan, South Thurston Economic Development Initiative, Thurston Thrives, Walk and Roll, Commute Trip Reduction, I-5 Action Plan, Bountiful Byways, Smart Corridors, and the Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan.

School Walk Route maps are an important component of a safe routes to school program. Maps communicate important information on the availability and connectivity of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and distances between neighborhoods and schools. The maps are part of a comprehensive approach to encourage students and their families to walk, bike, or ride the bus to schools safely.

This project contributes to the following outcomes that are goals of Sustainable Thurston, Healthy Kids Safe Streets Action Plan, Thurston Thrives, and Walk and Roll:

1. Reduction in traffic around schools, especially during morning peak commute periods
2. Promotes safety in and around neighborhoods and designated school zones
3. Reduction in delays in school bus service
4. Reduction in childhood exposure to harmful exhaust emissions from vehicles idling in school driveways
5. Increased opportunities for children to fulfill minimum daily physical activity levels which is shown to enhance students' readiness to learn throughout the academic day and reduces risks for diseases associated with childhood obesity.
6. Empowers youth to become self-sufficient and develops routine habits of using public transportation, walking, and biking as sustainable means of transportation.
7. Supports the planning for neighborhood traffic safety improvement projects
**PROJECT LOCATION AND DETAILS** – applicants may submit a map of the project or program/service area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction Projects</th>
<th>Project Location: N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Type of Construction Project:</td>
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<td>Length/Size of Construction Project:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Programs/Services</th>
<th>Delivery Area: North Thurston, Olympia, and Tumwater school districts</th>
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<td>Duration of Program/Service: 2020-2022</td>
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**PROJECT PHASING AND COSTS - Identify project phases and costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Engineering/Design</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right-of-Way</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studies or Program Costs:</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Costs:</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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**Total Project Cost** (Sum of all project phase costs identified above): $60,000.00

**TAP FUNDING REQUEST AND MATCHING REVENUES**

*Applicants must provide a minimum of 13.5% non-federal share to federal share. Federal share cannot exceed 86.5% of total project cost.*

- **Non-federal share:** $13,500
- **Federal TAP Funds:** $86,500
- **Total Project Cost:** $100,000

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<th>Local funding or other sources:</th>
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<tr>
<td>State funding:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal TAP Grant Request:</td>
<td>$51,900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project/Phase Revenue:</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
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**Background**

Imagine you’re the driver of a 45-foot school bus transporting exuberant elementary school passengers. This is your second route of the morning and delays from road construction and heavy commuter traffic has you counting down the days to summer break. Transporting students to school is our business. Student safety is everybody's business and no one takes it more seriously than bus drivers, teachers, principals, and school district administrators. We recognize that school districts should perform a role with encouraging students and families to reduce their dependence on personal vehicular travel and ride a school bus, use transit, walk, bike, or carpool to schools whenever and wherever these choices present themselves.

Student transportation can impact our communities’ transportation system. TRPC's “Healthy Kids Safe Streets Action Plan” recognized that 40 years ago, 50 percent of students walked or rode bikes to school. Today, fewer than 15% travel on their own steam. While lack of infrastructure prevents many families from walking to school, human behavior is difficult to influence. Parents’ fears and concerns about traffic safety, child abduction and assault, bad weather, and inconvenience poses challenges even for students who live close to schools in neighborhoods with sidewalks.

Our communities are safe. We want students to make use of the existing infrastructure investments we’ve made. It’s important for students to discover the benefits of walking, wherever possible, and do so routinely. Learning to walk comes naturally, but youth learning to walk safely in traffic requires supervision, instruction, practice, and positive reinforcement. Safe walking behavior such as following the rules of the road and using the buddy system reduces risks for accidents and affords many physical and mental health benefits. A school walk route map is not only a requirement, but it is an important tool for communicating where students can walk and where they are better served by riding a school bus. A map is also useful for families to share feedback to schools for areas within their neighborhoods that they believe need safety improvements.

We have observed the Walk N' Roll Program’s education and encouragement activities create positive changes in student transportation behavior in our schools. The program’s walk maps present neighborhood scale routes and offer sufficient detail for families to easily plan their trips from their home to the campus. Each map clearly highlights the preferred routes and the location of traffic signals, sidewalks, pathways, crossing guard stations, schools, and nearby parks. The backside of the map includes walking and biking safety tips, school contact information, and the dates of walk to school events. The maps and the program's education and encouragement activities and school walking events are a winning combination for our schools.

**Proposal**

This project will formalize a partnership between our school districts, TRPC, Intercity Transit, and community stakeholders to develop effective and user-friendly school walk route maps for approximately 28 elementary and middle schools. We believe TRPC has the expertise to fulfill this project and the maps will benefit schools with or without an active Walk N Roll Program. Completing all these schools at once will save time and encourage more families to leave their cars at home.

All three school districts will supply the match requirement. North Thurston Public Schools will act as the primary fiscal agent to collect and satisfy the match requirements of the grant when the project obligates. TRPC will serve as the project Certification Acceptance agency. TRPC, Intercity Transit, and school district staff will coordinate tasks and resources to construct base maps, conduct field trips, and gather community input to document existing facilities, traffic conditions, and to identify preferred walking routes. Every route and every map will be evaluated by school principals, district administrators, local traffic engineers, and other stakeholders before they are finalized. Print maps will be distributed at each school at the beginning of each school year accompanied by a letter from the principal inviting families to use the map to become familiar with their neighborhood and to take advantage of Walk N Roll activities. A copy of the map and lists of walking routes will also be posted on each school’s website.
**School Walk Route Mapping for North Thurston, Olympia, and Tumwater Schools**

**Project Title:**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

This project will benefit our communities as follows:

1. The maps will serve North Thurston, Olympia, and Tumwater school districts, our student families, and the neighborhoods around our districts’ schools.
2. This project establishes safe walk to school maps that are legible and consistent with existing maps.
3. This project will benefit the Walk N Roll Program which encourages safe and healthy walking and biking, and the use of public transit.
4. These maps will help identify improvements such as lighting, crosswalks, traffic signs, sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes that can be shared with city and county planners for future transportation improvements.
5. These maps will fulfill state requirements for identifying walk areas around elementary schools and will be a resource to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to help determine school transportation funding levels for our districts.
6. These maps will benefit all modes of travel such as walking, biking, public transit, school busing, and vehicle travel.
7. The Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department encourages walking to school as a great way to obtain daily exercise. These maps support building active communities and the objectives of Thurston Thrives.

Walking School Route Maps will be created for the following 28 schools (completed maps are listed too):

Maps Completed: Mountain View

Maps Completed: Garfield, Hansen, Pioneer

Tumwater (5): Black Lake, East Olympia*, Littlerock*, Tumwater Middle, Bush Middle;
Maps Completed: Michael T. Simmons, Peter G. Schmidt, Tumwater Hill

*Schools located in unincorporated Thurston County
### Project Verification and Endorsement
This project proposal reflects established local funding priorities consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan. Costs represent accurate planning level estimates needed to accomplish the work described herein. The project described is financially feasible, and local match revenue identified above is available and will be committed to the project if TRPC awards the requested TAP grant. If selected, **the project shall obligate by the date specified on the award letter**. Failure to do so will result in loss of funding for the project and an alternate project will be funded instead. I realize that the use of federal funds for this project entails administrative and project compliance requirements over which TRPC has no control, and for which this agency or organization will be responsible. This project has the full endorsement of the governing body/leadership of this agency or organization.

### Authorization
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Suessman</td>
<td>Transportation Director, North Thurston Public Schools</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Representative Authorized to Submit Application</th>
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<th>Signature</th>
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<td>04/23/2018</td>
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### Co-Authorization
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Morton and Cally Stroud</td>
<td>Transportation Directors, Olympia &amp; Tumwater school districts</td>
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<td>04/23/2018</td>
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</table>
April 9, 2018

Thurston Regional Planning Council
2424 Heritage Ct SW, Suite A
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Thurston County Regional Planning Council:

We are writing this letter of support related to a grant request related to Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant for FFY 2020-2022. North Thurston Public Schools will be submitting a proposal on behalf of North Thurston Public Schools, Olympia School District, and Tumwater School District. The grant request is for $60,000 for the purpose of mapping the safe walk to school route for the combined 30 elementary schools in these three school districts. It will cost $2000 in time and GIS Mapping service per school to accomplish this goal.

The safety of our Elementary Students is our upmost priority as they walk and bike to school. Having maps that signify a safe route to the elementary school will increase daily walkers, and bikers. The community is in need of standardized safe walk and bike maps to school. There are 30 Elementary Schools in the Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey (North Thurston) area. Encouraging walking and biking to school is healthy, and reduces the number of vehicles on the roadway. Creating standardized safe walk to school maps will benefit the community, encourage walking to school, and help people find the safest and easiest way to school.

The goals of this grant application are similar to other projects supported by Thurston Regional Planning Transportation Plan such as; Healthy Kids Safe Streets, Walk and Roll, Thurston Thrives, Commute Trip Reduction, Thurston Regional Trail Plan, and Smart Corridors.

Attached to this letter is an example of the type of map that would be created and offered to the families of our School Districts. We are asking that you support the TAP Grant application submitted on our behalf.

If you need further information or have questions please contact our North Thurston Public Schools Transportation Director, John Susseman at 360-412-4544.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debra Clemens
Superintendent
North Thurston Public Schools

Patrick Murphy
Superintendent
Olympia School District

John Bash
Superintendent
Tumwater School District
Transportation Alternatives Program 2020-2022 Call for Projects
Thurston Regional Planning Council - c/o Paul Brewster
2424 Heritage Ct. SW
Olympia, WA 98502

April 19, 2018

Dear TRPC Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Reviewers,

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services would like to express support for the proposal from North Thurston Public Schools to update school walking route maps for all elementary schools in the three large school districts of northern Thurston County. The Thurston Thrives Community Design strategy points to the importance of Safe Routes to School programs, and echoes Sustainable Thurston and the Regional Transportation Plan, in calling for continued support and enhancement to these programs in our community. The programs provide vital opportunities for physically active recreation and transportation where people live, work and play, and we commit to collaborate to ensure their success.

The proposal to work with partners to update (or, where absent, establish) the maps of safe walking routes, will have multiple benefits. The project will create a more consistent, family-friendly format of maps across a wide area of Thurston County for local residents to be able to more easily make their travel choices and engage in active transportation (walking or bicycling). It will help inform us of barriers and gaps in the networks for active transportation that should be addressed with improvements. Finally, it will foster collaboration among local agencies as they work together to define the safe routes and other supports that will help current and future generations learn about and engage in daily physical activity.

We thank you for your consideration of this and other proposals that enhance the support for healthy, active forms of transportation.

Sincerely,

Schelli Slaughter,
Director

Chris Hawkins,
Lead, Thurston Thrives
Community Design Action Team
April 16, 2018

Thurston Regional Planning Council
2424 Heritage Ct SW, Suite A
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Thurston County Regional Planning Council:

I am writing this letter of support for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant request submitted by North Thurston Public Schools on behalf of North Thurston Public Schools, Olympia School District, and Tumwater School District for the fiscal years 2020 through 2022. The request is for $60,000 to create safe school walking route maps for 30 elementary schools in the three districts.

The purpose of the maps is to increase the number of students safely walking and biking to schools. This goal aligns with Intercity Transit’s Walk N Roll Program. More people using active transportation means less traffic, less air pollution, and healthier people and communities. The Walk N Roll program currently promotes the six existing school walking route maps as part of our Walk to School Days. We believe the maps paired with organized Walk to School Days encourage families to use active transportation more frequently. If this grant is awarded, we plan to help promote the new maps and encourage additional schools to participate in Walk to School Days.

Please consider funding this valuable project. If you need further information or have questions please contact me by email at AFreeman@intercitytransit.com, or by phone at (360) 705-5838.

Sincerely,

Ann Freeman-Manzanares
Intercity Transit General Manager