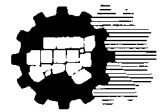


Regional Transportation Council

The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)



TO: Mayors and County Judges
City Managers and County Administrators
North Texas Tollway Authority
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
Public Transportation Authorities

DATE: September 2, 2005

FROM: Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation

SUBJECT: Strategic Funding Program for Arterial Streets, Arterial Intersections and Bottlenecks, and Intelligent Transportation System Projects

In an effort to advance projects that increase mobility and safety, and improve air quality, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), serving as the transportation policy board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area is initiating a strategic funding program to allocate federal funds to arterial streets, arterial intersections/bottlenecks, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects under RTC Partnership Program 3.

This strategic funding program is designed to fund:

1. Arterial Street Extensions and Widening (Attachment 1)
2. Arterial Intersections and Bottlenecks Improvements (Attachment 2)
3. Intelligent Transportation System Improvements (Attachment 3)

Attachments 1 thru 3 contain more specific guidance regarding eligible projects, emphasis areas, and proposal content for each of these categories.

A member of each agency and/or department that intends to submit a proposal under this funding program is strongly recommended to attend a Partnership Program Workshop. These workshops will help agencies understand the selection and funding process, the implementation process, and the timeframe that should be expected for projects being implemented through TxDOT. New transportation programming policies will also be discussed. Detailed workshop announcements have been mailed out under separate cover, but a flyer is enclosed for reference (Attachment 4). It is recommended that the individual(s) attending these workshops be directly involved in the project(s) being proposed.

To be considered under this strategic funding program, project sponsors must submit proposals to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Department in hard copy and electronic format no later than **Friday, November 4, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.** Send applications to Christie Jestis, Senior Transportation Planner, NCTCOG, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005-5888. Five copies of each project proposal must be submitted (in hard copy and electronic format). Electronic submissions should be provided as a compact disc or floppy disc (not via email) in a Microsoft Office software. Graphics, such as maps or photographs, can be submitted as portable document format (PDF) files.

In accordance with the RTC Call for Projects Procedures established in the RTC Bylaws, NCTCOG must have the submitted application "in hand" at the NCTCOG offices by the application deadline. Applications that are postmarked by the deadline do not constitute an on-time application. In addition, supplemental information cannot be submitted and will not be accepted after the application deadline. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications far enough in advance of the submission deadline to allow NCTCOG staff to review the application for completeness. If desired, agencies can submit the enclosed "Intent to Submit" response card to NCTCOG, which entitles the agency to receive a reminder notice approximately two weeks before the deadline.

After project proposals are received, submitting agencies are invited to meet with NCTCOG staff to discuss their agency's project proposals and priorities. At these meetings, we will also discuss the status of existing projects. Please contact Barbara Walsh at (817) 695-9245 to schedule a meeting for your agency.

Please note that this strategic funding program is one of several RTC funding initiatives to be initiated under RTC Partnership Program 3. A schedule of upcoming calls for projects and strategic funding programs is enclosed for reference (Attachment 5). Should you have questions regarding the process, or require assistance in the development of a project proposal, please contact Christie Jestis at (817) 608-2338.


Michael Morris, P.E.

EJ:fb
Enclosures

cc: Regional Transportation Council Members
Surface Transportation Technical Committee Members
2004-2005 UPWP Element 3.01 Project File

**ARTERIAL STREETS PROGRAM
EMPHASIS AREAS AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

Emphasis Areas:

- Projects that widen or extend existing arterial roadways and projects that construct new arterial roadways
- Projects that improve mobility and safety
- Projects that target resources to most congested areas
- Projects that are currently identified in the metropolitan transportation plan and transportation conformity
- Projects that involve multiple transportation modes (i.e., include sidewalks or other pedestrian amenities)
- Projects that create permanent improvements,
- Projects that are ready for construction,
- Agencies submitting projects under this funding initiative must be willing and able to sign TxDOT's standard right-of-way participation and local project advance funding agreements to receive funding.

Proposal Content:

Project Location - include project limits (to/from)

Map of Project

Scope of Work - detailed description of improvements to be made (i.e., widen Main Street from point A to point B, 2 to 4 lanes, divided/undivided roadway)

Project Type (i.e., addition of lanes, new roadway)

Project Length

Project Phases to be Funded - indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction). Please note that engineering initiated before final State/federal approval of the project funding is received must be paid with 100 percent local/private funds (and cannot be counted toward local match commitment).

Cost Estimate - provide an estimated cost (in 2005 dollars) that details the roadway and non-roadway items included in the project cost. The cost should take into account (and delineate) each of the phases for which you wish to request funding. It should also include Engineering and Contingency (E&C) charges, which is a fee that TxDOT charges to cover engineering, contingencies, project inspection, etc. This fee is a percentage of the total project cost (rate schedule: \$0 to \$1 million total cost - 16 percent E&C; \$1 million to \$5 million - 11.5 percent E&C; \$5 million to \$25 million - 11 percent E&C; over \$25 million - 7.5 percent E&C). Please note that landscaping and amenities that cost more than one (1) percent of the total construction cost will be 100 percent locally funded, unless otherwise noted.

Local Match - document who is paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available

Estimated Let/Start Date (for each phase)

Estimated Completion Date (for each phase)

Project Contact - include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact

Partnership Program Workshop Certification - include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

**ARTERIAL INTERSECTION AND BOTTLENECK PROGRAM
EMPHASIS AREAS AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

Emphasis Areas:

- Projects that reduce travel time, delay, and/or accidents due to implementation of low-cost improvements
- Projects that improve mobility, safety, and air quality at arterial intersections or along arterial streets
- Projects that are currently identified in the metropolitan transportation plan, transportation conformity, and/or major investment studies
- Projects that target resources to most congested areas,
- Projects that involve multiple transportation modes (i.e., include sidewalks or other pedestrian amenities)
- Projects that create permanent improvements
- Projects that are ready for construction
- Agencies submitting projects under this funding initiative must be willing and able to sign TxDOT's standard right-of-way participation and local project advance funding agreements to receive funding.

Proposal Content:

Project Location - include project limits and/or individual locations to be improved

Map of Project

Scope of Work - detailed description of improvements to be made (i.e., add left and right turn lanes on Street A at Street B, add grade separation on Street X at Street)

Project Type (i.e., safety, grade separation, intersection improvement)

Project Length

Project Phases to be Funded - indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction). Please note that engineering initiated before final State/federal approval of the project funding is received must be paid with 100 percent local/private funds (and cannot be counted toward local match commitment).

Cost Estimate - provide an estimated cost (in 2005 dollars) that details the roadway and non-roadway items included in the project cost. The cost should take into account (and delineate) each of the phases for which you wish to request funding. It should also include E&C charges, which is a fee that TxDOT charges to cover engineering, contingencies, project inspection, etc. This fee is a percentage of the total project cost (rate schedule: \$0 to \$1 million total cost – 16 percent E&C; \$1 million to \$5 million - 11.5 percent E&C; \$5 million to \$25 million – 11 percent E&C; over \$25 million - 7.5 percent E&C). Please note that landscaping and amenities that cost more than one (1) percent of the total construction cost will be 100 percent locally funded, unless otherwise noted.

Local Match - document who is paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available

Estimated Let/Start Date (for each phase)

Estimated Completion Date (for each phase)

Project Contact - include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact

Partnership Program Workshop Certification - include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

**INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PROJECTS
EMPHASIS AREAS AND PROPOSAL CONTENT**

Emphasis Areas:

- Projects that fill in gaps in the existing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) infrastructure by completing critical systems
- Projects that enhance interagency cooperation
- Projects that increase the reliability of the existing transportation system
- Projects that promote multimodal usage

Eligible and Ineligible Projects:

- Programs, projects, corridors and/or systems identified in the regional ITS plans are eligible.
- Projects consistent with priority services identified in the North Texas Regional ITS Architecture are eligible.
- Project sponsorship must include a commitment to provide at least 20 percent of the total project cost from a local source, in order to qualify for federal funding.
- Agencies submitting projects under this funding initiative must be willing and able to sign TxDOT's standard local project advance funding agreement to receive funding.
- Traffic signal communication projects which provide or enhance communication between signals and the central control are eligible under the ITS program.
- Traditional traffic signal improvement projects (signal optimization, controller replacement, signal upgrade, and signal coordination) are not eligible under the ITS program.
- Purchase of right-of-way is not an eligible expense.
- Cost overruns for currently selected or future ITS projects will not be funded with federal funds.

Proposal Content:

Project Location - include project limits and/or individual locations to be improved

Map of Project

Scope of Work - description of improvements to be implemented as part this project

Project Length

Project Phases to be Funded - indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering and/or construction). Please note that engineering initiated before final State/federal approval of the project funding is received must be paid with 100 percent local/private funds (and cannot be counted toward local match commitment).

Prioritization number of the project, as ranked by your agency (optional)

Cost Estimate - provide an estimated cost in 2005 dollars that details items included in the project cost. The cost should indicate each of the phases for which you wish to request funding. It should also include engineering and contingency (E&C) charges, which is a fee that TxDOT charges to cover engineering, contingencies, project inspection, etc. This fee is a percentage of the total project cost (rate schedule: \$0 to \$1 million total cost – 16 percent E&C; \$1 million to \$5 million - 11.5 percent E&C; \$5 million to \$25 million – 11 percent E&C).

Local Match - indicate the agency responsible for paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available. If not available, please specify when the funds will be available.

Estimated Let/Start Date (for each phase)

Estimated Completion Date (for each phase)

Project Contact - include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact

Partnership Program Workshop Certification - include printed name and signature of individual who attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project

Partnership Program Workshops

The North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Texas Department of Transportation invite you to a transportation funding workshop. If your agency plans to submit projects through the RTC Partnership Program 3, we strongly encourage you to attend.

This workshop will include an overview of:

- Partnership Program 3,
- Funding eligibility,
- Public/private partnerships,
- Project selection,
- Preparing cost estimates,
- Contracting with TxDOT,
- Environmental review process,
- Accurate project scheduling,
- Project modification procedures, and
- Question and answer session.

It is highly recommended that project managers and others directly working on projects attend this workshop. Please mark your calendars for one of the following dates.

Friday, September 16, 2005 :

TxDOT Fort Worth District Offices
Training Center
2501 Southwest Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76115
RSVP date: 09/09/05

Thursday, September 22, 2005 :

North Central Texas Council of Governments
Transportation Board Room
616 Six Flags Drive, Suite 200
Centerpoint Two
Arlington, TX 76011
RSVP date: 09/15/05

Tuesday, October 4, 2005:

Richardson Civic Center
Richardson Room
411 West Arapaho Road
Suite 102
Richardson, TX 75080
RSVP date: 09/27/05

All workshops will cover the same information, so it is only necessary to attend one.

The workshops are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a break for lunch.

Please RSVP to Erin Jones at ejones@nctcog.org or 817-608-2344 one week prior to the workshop you plan to attend.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments
Transportation Department



Texas Department of Transportation

FINAL FUNDING DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY AND SUBREGION¹ FY 2005-2009

Programs	STP-MM	CMAQ	RTC/Local	Total	Western Allocation	Eastern Allocation
Arterial Street Program ²	\$29.86			\$29.86	\$13.91	\$15.95
Local Air Quality Program ^{3,7}		+7.34	35.32	42.66	13.22	29.44
Freeway Interchange and Bottleneck Program ^(1/3 federal, 1/3 State, 1/3 local)	37.72			\$37.72	7.66	30.06
Arterial Intersection/Bottleneck Program ^{4,7}	9.06	21.57		\$30.63	15.66	14.97
High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes		18.87		\$18.87	0.00	18.87
Intelligent Transportation Systems ⁵		29.19		\$29.19	6.57	22.62
Transit (Partnership Program 2)		109.49		\$109.49	33.94	75.55
Sustainable Development Projects/Programs	+3.61	+5.21	31.79	40.61	12.59	28.02
Cost Overrun/Emergency/New Projects ⁶	7.06	19.73	3.53	30.32	10.95	19.37
Notes:	\$87.31	\$211.40	\$70.64	\$369.35	\$114.50	\$254.85

- 1 All funds are reflected in millions of dollars.
- 2 Includes addition of lanes projects and new roadway projects.
- 3 Includes **new 8-hour improvements**, alternative fuel vehicle technology, bicycle/pedestrian regional connections, special studies/other, traffic signal improvements, travel demand management/park-and-ride, **intermodal/freight projects**, and local match for other federal projects.
- 4 Includes safety projects, grade separations, intersection improvements, and bottleneck removals.
- 5 Includes mobility assistance crews.
- 6 New projects may include quiet zones, other air quality projects, etc .
- 7 Local governments and transportation entities within the nine county ozone nonattainment area are eligible for funding under this program.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS 2 AND 3 TIMEFRAME FOR RTC ACTION

Programs	Submittal Deadline	Implementation Timeline								
		Project Proposals (Due by 5:00 P.M.)	May/June 2005	Jul/Aug 2005	Aug/Sep 2005	Sep/Oct 2005	Nov/Dec 2005	Jan/Feb 2006	Mar/Apr 2006	May/June 2006
Arterial Street Program ²	November 4, 2005									
Local Air Quality Program ^{3,7}		Under Review								
Freeway Interchange and Bottleneck Program (1/3 federal, 1/3 State, 1/3 local)	October 7, 2005									
Arterial Intersection/Bottleneck Program ^{4,7}	November 4, 2005									
High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes	--	HOV Commitments Being Monitored								
Intelligent Transportation Systems ⁵	November 4, 2005									
Transit (Partnership Program 2)	August 12, 2005									
Sustainable Development Projects/Programs	January 20, 2006									
Cost Overrun/Emergency/New Projects ⁶		On Hold								

Notes:

- 1 All funds are reflected in millions of dollars.
- 2 Includes addition of lanes projects and new roadway projects.
- 3 Includes **new 8-hour improvements**, alternative fuel vehicle technology, bicycle/pedestrian regional connections, special studies/other, traffic signal improvements, travel demand management/park-and-ride, **intermodal/freight projects**, and local match for other federal projects.
- 4 Includes safety projects, grade separations, intersection improvements, and bottleneck removals.
- 5 Includes mobility assistance crews.
- 6 New projects may include quiet zones, other air quality projects, etc.
- 7 Local governments and transportation entities within the nine county ozone nonattainment area are eligible for funding under this program.

▲ = Draft Recommendations Presented to STTC