Transportation Alternatives

2020 Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region

Public Workshop
January 21, 2020
Workshop Overview

• Mobility 2045
• 2020 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects – Program Overview
  • Guidelines
  • Evaluation and Scoring
• Application Overview
• Environmental Review
• Project Implementation
  • Project Schedule
  • Project Budget
• Program Schedule
Implementing Mobility 2045
Mobility 2045

Policy BP3-002: Implement pedestrian and bicycle facilities

- Active Transportation Network Implementation
  - Close Gaps and Improve Connectivity in the Regional Veloweb, On-Street Bikeway Network, and Pedestrian Network
  - Linkages to Transit and Major Destinations
  - Environmental Justice Areas and Transit-Dependent Populations
- Regional Pedestrian Network
- Safe Routes to School
- Safety Improvements
- ADA
2020 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects Program Overview
Eligible Project Activities

May include:

- Shared-Use Paths (Trails)
- On-Street Bikeways
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Signalization
- Protected Intersections
- Sidewalks, Crosswalks, Curb Ramps
- Traffic Controls and Calming Measures
- Signage
- Road Diets
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Counters
Ineligible Project Activities

Includes, but not limited to:

• Planning for Safe Routes to School, corridor studies, trail or on-street bicycle plans, etc.

• Promotional activities and/or Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure activities related to education, encouragement, and enforcement

• Bike share equipment or operations.

• General recreation and park facilities (e.g., playground equipment, sports fields, etc.)

• Roadway construction/reconstruction focused projects

• Routine maintenance and operations
Eligible Project Sponsors

- Local Governments
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- School Districts, Local Education Agencies, or Schools
- Tribal Governments
- Other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails
## Funding Overview

**Funding Allocation for FY21*, FY22, and FY23**
(conditional upon receipt of federal funding)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Subregion</th>
<th>Eastern Subregion</th>
<th>Total Funding Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Worth District (34%)</td>
<td>Dallas and Paris Districts (66%)</td>
<td><strong>$19,864,799</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,102,880</td>
<td>$11,761,919</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $3,967,201 of FY21 Eastern Subregion funds already awarded by RTC on 6/13/19 and reduced proportionally in FY21 funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Federal Funding Award per Project</th>
<th>Minimum Federal Funding Award per Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$5,000,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$300,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding Overview

• TA federal funding is not a grant. The funds provided are on a cost reimbursement basis.

• Construction-implementation focus. Engineering/design and environmental must be **100% locally funded.**

• **Minimum 20% local match is required for construction.**

• Local match must be cash or TDCs - no in-kind contributions allowed.

• Agencies eligible to request TDCs in lieu of a local match if qualified through the MTP Policy Bundle process.

• A resolution by the project sponsor’s governing body confirming the availability of the local match contribution is required with each application.
Program Rules

- **Project Agreement:** Applicants must commit to executing an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT within one year of project selection (by end of FY2021).

- **Funding Obligation:** Applicants must commit to obligate funds within three years of selection (by end of FY2023) or risk the loss of funding.

- **Cost Overruns:** Are solely the responsibility of the nominating entity.
Eligible Project Categories

**Active Transportation**

- Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects.
- Projects that complete the regional Veloweb trail network, or connect to transit or major destinations are encouraged.

**Safe Routes to School**

- Bicycle and Pedestrian infrastructure projects.
- Projects intended to improve the safety and comfort of students walking and bicycling to school and encourage more students to walk or bicycle.
Eligible Project Locations

- **Active Transportation:** Large urbanized areas (over 200,000)

- **Safe Routes to School:** 12-county region, within 2 miles of K-8 school

[Online Map Identifying Eligible Area Boundaries (click to open)]
Evaluation and Scoring
### Active Transportation Category
**Evaluation and Scoring Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Network Connectivity</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>Improves connectivity of Mobility 2045 regional paths and bikeways between cities and counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transit Accessibility</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>Improves connections and access to transit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safety</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>Improves safety and provides facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists with a high level of comfort and suitability for users of all ages and abilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congestion Reduction</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td>Provides alternative travel options as an option to motor vehicle trips in areas with greater opportunity for walking and bicycling, thus improving air quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td>Improves access to disadvantaged populations and underserved communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reducing Barriers</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Provides safe crossing of existing travel obstacles such as major roadways, interchanges, railroads, and bodies of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Readiness and Other Factors</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>Project readiness / ability to obligate funds and initiate construction quickly. Other factors related to innovation, project impact, and local match percent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

REGIONAL NETWORK CONNECTIVITY (20 pts)

• Regional Veloweb Alignment or Connections to the Veloweb
• Pedestrian Connections to Major Destinations
• Designate as a Community Path or On-Street Bikeway in Mobility 2045
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY (15 pts)

• Connections to Transit Services (bus or rail)
• Closes gaps or extends the network (considers proximity)
• Number of connections
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

SAFETY (15 pts)
Provide documentation of the issues and the recommended safety countermeasures.

• Data source, safety report/study, benefit vs. cost
• The project realistically addresses the safety issues
• Low stress/high comfort facility design

Note: Regional pedestrian and bicycle crash data is available at
www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/bikeped/BikePedCrashInfo.asp
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

CONGESTION REDUCTION
(15 pts)

• Located in an area with high density of trips by motor vehicles
• Project provides a realistic alternative to motor vehicle trips in high congestion areas
• Forecasted user volumes
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

EQUITY (10 pts)

• Project located in an area identified in the NCTCOG Environmental Justice Index (EJI) Tool

• Project located in an area with zero car households above the regional average

Online Map Identifying EJ Areas (click to open)
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

REDUCING BARRIERS (5 pts)

• Project improves crossings of barriers such as major roadway, waterway, railroad, etc.
• Grade separate or at-grade crossings
Active Transportation Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

PROJECT READINESS & OTHER FACTORS (20 pts)

- Engineering/design – percent complete
- Local funding overmatch
- Innovative technology and treatments
- Preliminary utility assessment
- Geographic distribution
- Benefit vs. cost
- Level of stakeholder/community support
## Safe Routes to School Category
**Evaluation and Scoring Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Identification</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Addresses an identified problem, and the problem is significant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Support</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Supported by a SRTS Plan or local planning effort, and supportive municipal policies and plans (ADA Transition Plan and Complete Streets Policy).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential to Increase Walking and Bicycling</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Likely to increase the number of students that walk or bicycle to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Improves school access and safety for disadvantaged populations and underserved communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Support</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Community support is demonstrated through letters of support, a public meeting, and past participation in encouragement or education events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Readiness and Other Factors</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Project readiness/ability to obligate funds and initiate construction quickly. Other factors related to innovation, project impact, and local match percent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safe Routes to School Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION (20 pts)

• Description and documentation (proof) of problem being addressed, and how the project addresses the problem.

• Points for problem identification and documentation, severity of problem, and how well the project addresses the problem.

• Points for the number of students that currently walk or bicycle to/from school.
  • Potential data sources: in-class travel tally or parent survey (templates available at www.saferoutesdata.org), visual observation.

Source: City of Princeton

Source: City of Fort Worth
Safe Routes to School Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

PLANNING SUPPORT (20 pts)

• Points for SRTS Plan, safety audit or other planning effort.

• Points for municipal Complete Streets Policy and ADA Transition Plan for transportation.

Source: City of North Richland Hills

Source: City of Fort Worth
Safe Routes to School Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

POTENTIAL TO INCREASE WALKING & BICYCLING (15 pts)

• Project’s closest point to the school.
• Percentage of students that live within 2 miles of school. (Potential sources: school principal, school district transportation department)
• Estimated number of students that are likely to walk or bike to school after project implementation.
• Presence of other pedestrian generators that will benefit from project.

Source: City of McKinney
Safe Routes to School Category Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

**EQUITY (15 pts)**
- Percent of students that are economically disadvantaged.
  - (Source: Texas Education Agency School Report Cards)

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT (10 pts)**
- Letter of support from school district superintendent (Required).
- Letter of support from school principal.
- Additional letters of support (up to five).
- School and/or city’s past participation in education or encouragement events for walking/bicycling to school.
- Whether a public meeting has been held.
Safe Routes to School Category
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

PROJECT READINESS & OTHER FACTORS (20 pts)

• Same as Active Transportation category.

Source: City of Rowlett
Safe Routes to School Category

- Applications for SRTS projects will not compete for funding with Active Transportation projects.

- A separate application should be submitted for each school campus or grouping of schools.

- Note: Projects that perform best are grounded in a planning effort, site observations during arrival/dismissal, and/or input from the school community. Projects that are purely based on a city’s sidewalk gap inventory will not perform well.
Application Overview
Description of Project

• Purpose of the Project
• Existing Conditions
• Supplemental Materials
  • Pictures, diagrams, maps, etc.
Description of Project / Project Elements

• Identify the type of facilities to be constructed (sidewalks, crossings, path/trail, bike lanes, signage, etc.).

• Identify any innovative treatments and technology to be included in the project design.

• Project elements should be consistent with the itemized construction cost worksheet (budget).
Project Elements

The project includes the following facilities: (Select all that apply)

☐ Sidewalks ___% New Construction ___ Width (ft.) of sidewalks
☐ Crosswalks  ☐ Curb Ramps
☐ On-Street Bicycle Facilities
  • ☐ Bicycle Lane
  • ☐ Shared Lane Markings
  • ☐ Separated Bicycle Lane
  • ☐ Bicycle Boxes
  • ☐ Colored Pavement for Bicycle Lanes
☐ Shared-Use Path/Trail ___ Width (ft.) (minimum 10 – 14 ft.)
☐ Pedestrian and Bicycle Signalization/Traffic Control
☐ Bicycle Parking/Racks/Amenities
☐ Pedestrian Amenities/Streetscape (lighting, landscaping, etc.)
☐ Transit Stops and Amenities  ☐ Traffic Calming
☐ Signage  ☐ Bicycle/Pedestrian Traffic Count Equipment
☐ Other _____________________

Identify the percentage that is new vs. repair/maintenance

Must comply with AASHTO

Less than 10-ft. width is considered an enhanced sidewalk

Note: All elements selected in this section must be included in the Project Budget.
Project Elements (cont.)

Consistent with FHWA standards, AASHTO, NACTO, and other relevant guides.

Note: Per AASHTO a shared-use path/trail has a minimum 10-14 ft. width.
Project Location

- Map of project location, alignment or boundary
- Clearly identify project segments/phases
- Clearly identify location and length of various facility types (e.g., trail, on-street, sidewalk)
- Clearly identify other existing and planned facilities in the area, key land uses, and other connecting destinations
Project Location (cont.)
Application Requirements

- **Funding Resolution by Project Sponsor Governing Body:** Confirm the availability of the local match contribution.

- **Environmental Checklist**

  - **Right-of-Way/Easement:** Property must be under public ownership. If easement cannot be obtained by deadline, a consent letter from property owner is required.

- **Project Schedule Worksheet**
- **Project Budget Worksheet**

- **GIS Files of Project Elements**

- **Letter of Support from School District Superintendent** (SRTS Projects Only)

- **Railroad Right of Entry Letter/Agreement** (if project is in railroad right-of-way)

- **TxDOT District Engineer Letter of Consent** (if project is in TxDOT right-of-way)

- **Documentation of Support from Supporting Entity** (if project crosses jurisdictions)
Submittal and Attachments

- Complete the Checklist.
- Submit hard copies and electronic copies.
- Submittals prior to April 10, 2020 will be reviewed for completeness if requested.
- Additional information, including resolutions, cannot be submitted after the May 15, 2020 5pm deadline (per RTC Policy).

There will be no extensions.
Resources

nctcog.org/TAP
General Tips - Project Development

Is the project design suitable for “All Ages and Abilities”?

• Does the project implement FHWA-recommended safety countermeasures?

• Is the project design appropriate for the context in which it is located?

• Does the project implement a low stress/high level of comfort facility?
General Tips - Project Development

What is a “low stress/high comfort level” facility?
• A wide sidewalk for pedestrians: minimum 5 ft. width
• Off-street shared-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists: minimum 10-14 ft. width
• Separated/protected bike lanes or on-street bike lanes with a suitable design for bicyclists based on the context of the project location (e.g., projected traffic volumes, speeds, adjoining land uses, etc.)
Environmental Review

• Purpose of the TA Program checklist is to identify any major issues that could delay environmental approval of the proposed project.
• All projects will be required to follow the federal/state environmental process (NEPA).
• The checklist is not a NEPA document. A separate environmental analysis is required for all projects.
Land Use

• Park Lands
• Historical Properties
  • Neighborhoods
  • Bridges
  • Buildings/Homes
• Archaeological Properties
• Cemeteries

Check with your parks and historical departments.
Permitting

- US Army Corp of Engineers
  - Section 404 (streams, lakes, and wetlands)
  - Section 408 (levees)
  - Section 10 (Trinity River)
- Railroad Corridors
- Utility Corridors

Check with your engineering department.
Threatened/Endangered Species and Regulated Materials

• Listed species by both Texas Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Interior Least Tern (industrial areas/gravel bars in creeks)
  - Mussels (Trinity River system)
  - Bald Eagle (large bodies of water)

• Hazardous Materials and Contaminated Sites
  - Gas Stations
  - Auto Repair Facilities
  - Industrial and Chemical Plants
  - Factories
Project Implementation
## Project Schedule Template

### Transportation Alternatives Project Schedule

**DIRECTIONS:** Enter the number of months in the “Estimated Time” column for the below project development tasks and milestones and fill in the cells in the project schedule timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
<th>Responsibility Entity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Project Selection (Assisted by TTI)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Quarterly data received from TTI &amp; DRAFTTY (Oct 29, 2019)</td>
<td>7/2019</td>
<td>LG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Anticipated TIP Approval (by May 2021)</td>
<td>7/2019</td>
<td>LG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Local Government &amp; TTI Agreement</td>
<td>7/2019</td>
<td>LG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Execution Project Agreement</td>
<td>7/2019</td>
<td>LG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Letter of Authorization for Engineering</td>
<td>1/2020</td>
<td>LG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Project Kick-Off Meeting with TCOOT</td>
<td>1/2020</td>
<td>LG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Work completed prior to TIP approval and executing an AFA with TCOOT is not eligible for reimbursement.*
### Project Schedule Template (cont.)

Identify the timeline for implementing the project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Anticipated STIP Approval (by April 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Local Government Risk Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Execute Project Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>State Letter of Authority for Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Project Kick-Off Meeting with TxDOT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND DESIGN**

- **Notes:** TxDOT Districts have different requirements related to reviewing Design phase work. Consult with TxDOT staff on District-specific expectations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Submit Schematic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Submit Design Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Submit 30% Plo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Submit 60% Plo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Submit 95% Plo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copy/paste colors for corresponding phase work in cells for submittal dates or the length of time spent on tasks.

- Work completed prior to STIP approval and executing an AFA with TxDOT is not eligible for reimbursement.
Implementation of Projects

• Consistent with other Federal-aid highway programs, TA funds are administered by the Texas Department of Transportation.

• Regardless of whether the projects are located within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, the treatment of projects will require:
  • Project Agreements
  • Authorization to Proceed Prior to Incurring Costs
  • Approval of environmental documents
  • Designing to federal standards
  • Prevailing Wage Rates (Davis-Bacon)
  • Buy America
  • Competitive Bidding
LG Flow Chart

Start

Do Nothing

Application

STIP

Risk Assessment

If not approved

If Applicable

If Applicable

Obligation of Engineering funds

Local Let Flow Chart

Environmental Documentation

City’s $$$$ portion of the Project paid to TxDOT

Resolve

AFA

City Resolution

KICK OFF MEETING

30% or Project Footprint

Activate the project in PeopleSoft

City’s $$$$ portion of the Project paid to TxDOT

City

Project

Risk Assessment

If STIP NOT Applicable

If applicable

STIP

Application

Do Nothing

If not approved

Start

North Central Texas Council of Governments
LG Flow Chart (cont.)
Project Schedule and Phasing

• Anticipated approval of STIP and availability of TA funds is March/April 2021.

• Project sponsor must be prepared to execute an agreement (LPAPA) with TxDOT quickly after approval of the STIP (by Sept. 2021).

• TxDOT administrative fee must be paid prior to advertising. (Half of fee paid at time the AFA is signed by the project sponsor.)

• All TA funded projects must advance to construction within three years (or less) of project selection (by 2023), per program rules.

• Projects unable to be completed within the required timeframe are at risk of losing TA funding due to federal regulations.
Project Budget
**Project Budget Summary**

**Budget Summary Tab**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Itemized Construction Costs</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Itemized Construction Tab**

**DRAFT**

Complete itemized project activities and costs proposed to be reimbursed by Federal TA funds.

If part of a larger project, upload complete project budget as part of Attachment I.
Itemized Construction Costs

- Organize activities based on themes (facilities, illumination, landscaping, utilities, etc.)
- More detail is better
- Accurate cost estimates decrease the likelihood of cost overruns (especially with utilities)
Cost Estimates and Budget Issues

• Cost estimates based on sound professional judgement. Be sure to address utility needs.
• Project’s scope of work will not change after application is submitted.
• Projects cannot substantially change after the funding award.

The applicant is responsible for any and all cost overruns.
Contact Information: TxDOT District Staff

**Fort Worth TxDOT District**
Phillip Hays
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(817) 370-6673

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(214) 320-6691
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Program Guidelines and Applications

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(817) 608-2376

nctcog.org/TAP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) – Info on CFP</td>
<td>November 20, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Projects Public Workshop</td>
<td>January 21, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) – Info on CFP</td>
<td>January 24, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Transportation Council (RTC) – Action on CFP</td>
<td>February 27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Projects Opens</td>
<td>March 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Meetings to Review Applications for Completeness</td>
<td>April 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Projects Closes</td>
<td>May 15, 2020, 5 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Projects / Scoring by NCTCOG</td>
<td>May – July 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Meetings</td>
<td>August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STTC – Action on Selected Projects</td>
<td>August 28, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTC – Action on Selected Projects</td>
<td>September 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Meetings with TxDOT District Staff</td>
<td>September – October 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submittal Deadline for TIP Modifications</td>
<td>October 23, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval of Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)</td>
<td>March / April 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?