



Transit for Livable Communities

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www.bikewalktc.org

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As a result of board action in November, Transit for Livable Communities announces upcoming funding opportunities through Bike Walk Twin Cities, the Minneapolis-area program of the federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot (NTP).

This letter is a call for 1) candidate planning studies and 2) capital projects ready for immediate implementation.

Basis of the Funding Strategy

This announcement is part of an overall funding strategy that takes into consideration extensive input and engagement including: survey of elected officials and key decision-makers Aug 2010 and follow-up focus group; community engagement session in May 2010; focused conversation with Bike Walk Advisory Committee (BWAC) leadership; staff ongoing review of national and international best practices; staff assessment of earlier awards made and outcomes; staff engagement with other pilot communities and NTP national program stakeholders; and public comment on a proposed plan. All of the initiatives reflect the direction indicated by the Bike Walk Advisory Committee during its intense developmental work of 2006-2009. Thank you for any role you played in the input-gathering process.

Funds Available

Past Allocation -- Each pilot community (Marin Co, CA; Columbia, MO; Sheboygan Co, WI and Minneapolis, MN) was authorized to receive approximately \$23 million under SAFETEA-LU. Nearly all those funds have been allocated to date. Numerous awarded projects have opened; implementation of funded projects continues through 2011. Please see www.bikewalktc.org for a description of all funded projects. In addition, measurement and communications/education/outreach is ongoing under the direction of TLC staff.

Current Extension -- Congressional continuing resolutions to date (Dec 2010) will make available approximately \$6 million to BikeWalk Twin Cities. It is possible that more funds will be allocated to the program under additional continuing resolutions or through a new transportation bill. Eligible jurisdictions will be informed if future NTP funding occurs.

Current Extension Opportunities

Six categories for funding were approved at the recent TLC Board meeting. Two of these elements are now open for submittals:

- 1) Building regional readiness through a bank of bike/walk project designs:
A call for candidate planning studies
- 2) Enhancing the bike walk network through high priority bike/walk projects:
A call for capital projects ready for immediate implementation

**Funding Category #1 - Building regional readiness through a bank of bike/walk project designs:
A call for candidate planning studies**

Outcome

A set of fundable bike/walk projects (plan sets) competitive for federal funds that will address high-priority network connections. Target scale of implementation: medium (street redesign within 12-mo completion) to high (large project of regional significance).

Criteria

The candidate project will be evaluated on its ability to meet all the following measures:

1. Complete important network gaps
2. Address cultural/economic equity
3. Encourage more people to walk and bike for transportation purposes by at least one of the following:
 - a. Improving access to transit – especially in areas with high transit-dependent populations
 - b. Removing bicycling / walking barriers to schools, workplaces, or commercial destinations
 - c. Creating connections across significant physical barriers
4. Demonstrate priority support across all relevant jurisdictions

The project plans developed as part of this process will fully incorporate best practices design and consider innovative solutions where appropriate.

Process

TLC is calling for corridor, intersection, or other capital projects meeting the criteria. To be considered, a project must be identified in an existing plan. Sources of possible projects include but are not limited to the following:

- existing plans funded by BWTC (e.g., Minneapolis Pedestrian Plan, Bike/Ped Connections to Central Corridor Plan, Connections to Transit Plan)
- other jurisdictional plans (e.g., Minneapolis Bicycle Plan, Hennepin County Minnehaha/Hiawatha Strategic Investment Framework, National Park Service plan)
- previous BWTC solicitations

The process steps are as follows:

1. TLC staff in concert with agencies develop list of candidate projects based on existing plans and prior solicitations meeting the criteria.

Please send TLC a letter or e-mail describing proposed projects meeting the criteria that should be considered. Submit project name and link to relevant planning document by January 10, 2011.

Steve Clark stevec@tlcminnesota.org

2. Technical Advisory Team evaluates list against established criteria by February 2011
3. TLC staff and technical advisory team selects twelve to fifteen projects for further verification
4. TLC staff recommends to TLC Board ten to twelve final projects for development to 30% plan set
5. Agencies contacted with list of TLC approved projects March 2011 for their approval

Funding available (up to \$500,000)

Funds will not be made available to jurisdictions for this work. Consultative and design work to develop the plans will be contracted under TLC management. The process will be collaborative with managing authorities; agency time contributed toward review or development of the final plans will be considered as a jurisdictional match.

Rationale

This strategy leverages and expedites existing planning work for future mode shift outcome. In a survey of decision-makers in July 2010, project planning and/or pre-engineering (e.g., 30% plan sets for key corridors or intersections) 62% of respondents indicated this funding strategy as very important.

<p>Funding Category #2 - Enhancing the bike walk network through high priority bike/walk projects: A call for capital projects ready for implementation</p>
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There are two windows for funding high priority capital projects:

- a) February 2011
- b) November 2011

Outcome

One or more state-of-the-art facilities or projects (e.g., bicycle boulevard, bridge or railroad crossing, greenway, cycle track, bike station) that eliminate physical/access barriers and/or create new opportunities to increase walking and/or bicycling for transportation purposes.

Criteria

The candidate project will be evaluated on its ability to meet all the following measures:

- Complete important network gap
 - Address cultural/economic equity
 - Provide exceptional potential for delivering mode shift, including connections to transit
 - Expect project completion in 2012 (all ROW secured; no total street reconstruction)
 - Demonstrate high support across all relevant jurisdictions
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- Enable prompt completion of project memo (all pre-engineering work is complete)
 - Demonstrate public support

Process

To submit a project for consideration, please follow the steps below.

1. Agency staff submit relevant plans to TLC staff describing potential “shovel-ready” project(s) meeting criteria by **January 10, 2010**

Contact Steve Clark at stevec@tlcminnesota.org with the following information:

- Location of project
 - Implementing jurisdiction
 - Estimated project cost
 - Contact information
2. Agency staff complete phone review with TLC staff by January 15, 2011

Projects will be selected based on the criteria with the following steps:

- Review of proposed projects by Project Advisory Team and TLC staff in late January 2011
- Presentation of recommended projects to TLC board in February 2011 for funding action

Funding available

\$1,800,000 total

Rationale

TLC expects to review projects flowing from the planning study work in #1 above as well as other high priority projects in the November 2011 review window. This early call is to enable any “shovel-ready” projects meeting the criteria to move forward, bringing more immediate mode shift value.

