

ITEM 7 – Action
May 21, 2025

Approval of FY 2026 TLC Technical Assistance Recipients

Action: Approve TLC technical assistance recipients under the FY 2026 TLC Program.

Background: The TPB's Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program has provided support to local jurisdictions as they deal with the challenges of integrating land-use and transportation planning at the community level since 2006. Staff solicited applications for the FY 2026 TLC round of technical assistance between January 6 and March 7, 2025. The board will be briefed and asked to approve the applications that are being recommended for FY 2026.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Victoria Caudullo, Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: FY 2026 Transportation Land-Use Connections Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations
DATE: May 15, 2025

This memo provides information on the recommendations of the Selection Panel for the FY 2026 round of technical assistance under the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program. At the panel's meetings on April 11 and April 22, the group identified five projects to recommend for funding in FY 2026. The TPB will be asked to approve the recommended projects at its meeting on May 21, 2025.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2025

A total of \$440,000 will be provided for the TLC Program in FY 2026 through funding in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The recommended slate of five projects is highly consistent with key TPB objectives: All five projects are in/near Activity Centers or positively affect Activity Centers; all five projects are in or near high-capacity transit (HCT) station areas or positively affect HCTs, and 4 of these 5 are in/near Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFAs); all five projects support the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN)—directly or indirectly.

The five projects recommended for funding are described below:

Curbless Street Design Specification

DC, \$100,000

The District is seeking to create more flexible pedestrian spaces for regular programming through curbless streets. The District aims to convert standard roads into pedestrian-oriented spaces and activating medium and high-density, mixed-use corridors. This project will create a 30% curbless street design specification to support this goal. The creation of a curbless street design specification was outlined in the Downtown Public Realm Plan and will advance the Downtown Action Plan and the upcoming Downtown Comprehensive Transportation Plan to prioritize safety and pedestrian access.

Montgomery County Capital Bikeshare Improvement Plan

Montgomery County, \$80,000

Montgomery County requests funding to develop a strategy to evaluate existing bikeshare operations and provide recommendations for growing the existing bikeshare network. The project will focus on the MD 355 corridor from Rockville to Bethesda and will include long-term strategic planning, market research, data and financial analysis, and policy research. The project will serve as a long-range implementation and operation strategy and will identify long-term funding needs, revenue sources, prioritize current and future bikeshare locations, and equipment and personnel needs. The project will serve as a strategic guide to advance priorities for improving the Capital Bikeshare network and

will include short-term recommendations to improve internal operations and organization and longer-term strategies to be implemented by Montgomery County.

Northern Prince George's East-West Bikeway (NPGEWB)

Prince George's County, \$80,000

Prince George's County requests funding to study the feasibility of an 11-mile bike route consisting of shared use paths and on-road bikeways, as well as potential alternatives across northern Prince George's County between Lanham and Lewisdale. This route will connect five existing shared-use paths, three of which are parallel to each other in north-south alignments. The proposed project will serve two MARC stations, two Metrorail stations and several Purple Line stations, and connect to the Washington, Baltimore, & Annapolis (WB&A), Folly Branch, Northeast Branch, Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail, and Northwest Branch Trails. It will provide access to multiple Major Activity Centers, the University of Maryland, commercial and employment sites, numerous residential neighborhoods and multifamily developments, and multiple parks and recreation centers.

Beauregard Trail Feasibility Study

Alexandria, \$80,000

This project will produce conceptual designs and cost estimates for a trail on North Beauregard Street. Improvements may include, but not be limited to, a shared use path, new crosswalks or improvements to existing crosswalks, median islands, concrete improvements, signs, signals, and landscaping. This project will advance the AlexWest Small Area Plan to enhance connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists through an off-road multi-use path on North Beauregard. The project will also support the City's Alexandria Mobility Plan goals of creating a safe, comfortable walking and biking environment, making transit easier to use.

Westpark Drive Safety Project

Fairfax County, \$100,000

This project will advance Fairfax's Countywide Bicycle Master Plan through design of a protected bicycle facility on Westpark Dr in Tysons, VA. The project will bolster existing efforts to serve bicycle riders and improve pedestrian safety and will provide a direct connection to the Tysons Metrorail Station's north entrance and the future Leesburg Pike Trail, which is a part of the National Capital Trails Network.

APPLICATION PROCESS

On January 6, 2025, the TPB issued a call for projects for the FY 2026 round of TLC technical assistance. The deadline for application submissions was March 7. Applicants were invited to submit optional abstracts which provided applicants an interim opportunity for TPB staff to review project concepts and to provide feedback on how to develop stronger TLC applications.

This year, the maximum request for preliminary engineering/design was \$100,000 and the maximum request for planning projects was \$80,000.

As in previous years, the TLC application process was combined with the Regional Roadway Safety Program, which is a TPB program that operates on the same model as TLC. Applicants had the opportunity to submit one joint application for both programs – or they could choose to apply just for one program. Three applications were submitted for both programs.

The TPB received 16 TLC applications for FY 2026 — 8 from Virginia, 7 from Maryland, and one from the District of Columbia. The total funding request for the entire application package was \$1,310,000.

For this application cycle, \$440,000 is available. This includes two funding sources:

- \$300,000 from the TPB's FY 2025 UPWP core regional planning funds. Applications from all TPB jurisdictions are eligible for these funds
- \$60,000 from the Maryland UPWP Technical Assistance account for projects in Maryland
- \$80,000 from the Virginia UPWP Technical Assistance account for projects in Virginia

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel included the following members:

- Michael Weil, Panel Chair, National Capital Planning Commission
- John Swanson, Panel Facilitator, COG/TPB consultant
- Douglas Noble, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- Claire Randall, Transportation Research Board
- Lisa Rother, former Urban Land Institute (ULI) Washington
- Victoria Caudullo, COG/TPB staff
- Mike Farrell, COG/TPB staff

Janie Nham of the COG staff participated in the panel meetings as a technical resource for safety and freight-related questions.

The selection panel met twice— on April 11 and April 22— to review the applications and develop a list of recommended projects for the FY 2026 round of TLC technical assistance. The selection panel used established regional evaluation criteria and their own extensive industry knowledge to assess the proposed projects. The selection panel members individually reviewed and scored each application in advance of the meetings based on their assessments of the projects as well as regional criteria. The panel members then used their scores to divide the applications into rankings of high/medium/low. The rankings served as a starting point for the panel's collective discussion.

Based upon discussion of the regional and local merits of the applications, the selection panel developed a list of five projects to recommend to the TPB for approval. The panel believes this package of projects will be locally and regionally beneficial. In developing the list, the panel strove to equitably allocate funding shares of different sizes among the region's jurisdictions, while also attempting to create a slate of projects that addresses regional priorities across a range of topics affecting core, inner, and outer jurisdictions.

The application from the City of Rockville was selected for funding through MWCOC's Regional Roadway Safety program.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

Following TPB approval of the proposed slate of five projects for funding under the FY 2026 TLC technical assistance program on May 21, 2025, TPB staff will begin to coordinate with the jurisdictions that have been awarded technical assistance to finalize project scopes of work and

begin the consultant selection process. All projects will begin soon after consultant task orders are signed. The projects will be scheduled for completion by June 30, 2026.

For further information regarding the TLC program, contact Victoria Caudullo (vcaudullo@mwkog.org; 202-962-3753) of the TPB staff.

TLC PROGRAM FY 2026 APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Jurisdiction Name	State	Project Name	Request	Panel Recommendation
DC	DC	Curbless Street Design Specification	\$100,000	\$100,000
Charles County	MD	Charles County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan 3E's Supplemental Guidebook - Encouragement, Engagement, & Economic Development	\$30,000	
City of Frederick	MD	Thomas Johnson-Clemson Corner Connector	\$100,000	
City of Gaithersburg	MD	Watkins Mill BRT Station Access Study: Improving Connectivity and Encouraging Multimodal Use in the Northern Frederick Avenue Corridor	\$80,000	
City of Rockville	MD	Rollins-Twinbrook Complete Street Feasibility Study	\$80,000	Funded via RRSP
Montgomery County	MD	Montgomery County Capital Bikeshare Improvement Plan	\$80,000	\$80,000
Prince George's County	MD	Northern Prince George's East-West Bikeway (NPGEWB)	\$80,000	\$80,000
Town of Bladensburg (Port Towns)	MD	Port Towns Wayfinding and Signage Study	\$80,000	
City of Alexandria	VA	Beauregard Trail Feasibility Study	\$80,000	\$80,000
Fairfax County	VA	Westpark Drive Safety Project	\$100,000	\$100,000
Fairfax County	VA	Improvements to W&OD Trail Crossing at Gallows Road	\$80,000	
Fairfax County	VA	Pedestrian Crossing Alternatives for Reston Parkway at Reston Town Center TSA	\$80,000	
Prince William County	VA	Prince William County Parking Demand Reduction Planning Study	\$80,000	
Prince William County	VA	Southbridge/Dumfries Rd. Planning Study	\$80,000	
Prince William County	VA	Dumfries Fairground Trail Connection 30% Design Project	\$100,000	
Prince William County	VA	Truck Parking Planning Study	\$80,000	
TOTAL REQUESTED			\$1,310,000	\$440,000
TOTAL AVAILABLE				\$440,000