

ITEM 8 – ACTION
May 20, 2026

Approval of the FY 2027 Regional Roadway Safety Program Projects

Action: Approve the FY 2027 Regional Roadway Safety Program Projects.

Background: Staff will brief the board on the projects recommended by the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP) Selection Panel to receive technical assistance in the sixth round of the program. The board will be asked to approve the recommended projects.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
FROM: Janie Nham, TPB Planning Manager
Jamie Bufkin, TPB Transportation Planner
John Swanson, Consultant
SUBJECT: FY 2027 Regional Roadway Safety Program Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations
DATE: May 14, 2026

This memo provides information on the recommendations of the Selection Panel for the sixth round of technical assistance under the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP). The panel met in April and recommended four projects for funding. Following the panel's meeting, Maryland and Virginia agreed to each fund an additional project, bringing the total number of recommended projects to six.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2027

A total of \$500,000 in funding is authorized for the current round of the Regional Roadway Safety Program. Following an evaluation process and joint deliberation, the RRSP selection panel recommends six projects for funding. The recommended projects support several key TPB safety priorities:

- All projects address one or more of the priorities outlined in TPB Safety Policy Resolution R3-2021.
- All projects encourage improved road user behavior through improved infrastructure design.

The projects recommended for funding are:

MARYLAND

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons in Context: An Evidence-Based Assessment by Roadway and Land Use Montgomery County, \$80,000

This study will collect data on a sample of eighteen PHB locations in Montgomery County, Arlington County, and the City of Alexandria to determine driver yield rates, pedestrian activation rates, and how device placement and phasing may affect use and compliance. The study will also include a literature review on the latest guidance on PHBs and a compilation of the assessed jurisdiction's PHB standards, design guidance, and decision-making that led to installations at the observation sites. From this, the County will gain an understanding of whether PHB adherence aligns with expected driver yield and pedestrian activation rates (>90%), where local PHB placements have a higher or lower adherence, and what the best practices are for the region in using PHBs by road and land use context.

Between the Creeks: Flower Avenue Traffic Study

City of Takoma Park, \$80,000

This project will conduct a comprehensive traffic analysis of the site area neighborhood between New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard to understand the traffic volume, speed patterns, pedestrian safety concerns, enforcement effectiveness, and infrastructure needs. The study will identify key problem areas, evaluate cut-through patterns, analyze trends, and develop data-driven short-term and long-term recommendations that can be implemented to improve traffic safety and mobility for all users.

Circling Back: Innovative Options for Residential Intersections

City of Takoma Park, \$100,000

This project will build upon a recent traffic study that identified safety concerns with two traffic circles in the New Hampshire Gardens neighborhood: Wildwood Drive at both Kirkland and Kingwood Avenues. Rather than simply remove the traffic circles and revert back to the previous four-way stop intersection, the City will ask the consultant to explore more effective and innovative alternatives that address aggressive driving and high-volume cut-through traffic. Preliminary designs created from this project will position the City for presenting to the Council for allocation in the annual Capital Improvement Program budget.

VIRGINIA

Mount Vernon Avenue Corridor Study

City of Alexandria, \$80,000

This project will assess the conditions for safety improvements along Mt. Vernon Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Leadbeater Street. The study will result in prioritized safety recommendations, conceptual designs for safety countermeasures, evaluation of potential slow zones, and community engagement. The City will then be equipped to implement near-term tactical improvements and pursue funding for permanent infrastructure upgrades.

Pickett Road Corridor Roadway Safety Audit

City of Fairfax, \$80,000

This project will conduct a roadway safety audit on the Pickett Road corridor in response to over 200 crashes occurring on the 1.6-mile corridor in the past five years. From the audit, the City will gain a prioritized list of short- and long-term strategies to address critical safety issues, which will then be used to eventually pursue implementation fundings for infrastructure improvements, educational campaigns, and other countermeasures.

Maplewood Neighborhood Traffic Study

Prince William County, \$80,000

In response to a long history of documented traffic safety concerns, including excessive vehicle speeds, cut-through traffic, and aggressive driver behavior, the County is requesting consultation services to conduct a holistic, neighborhood-wide safety study in the Maplewood-Yorkshire Aces community. The study will evaluate traffic operations, speeding patterns, cut-through volumes, and multimodal conditions access the internal street network and key access points. Potential infrastructure and policy strategies will be recommended, along with a phased implementation framework that will help the County pursue various funding opportunities.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The TPB solicited applications from member jurisdictions for this year's FY 2027 RRSP round from January 2 through February 27, 2026. Applicants could submit optional abstracts, which provided them with preliminary feedback from TPB staff on how to strengthen their submissions. Applicants were eligible to receive up to \$80,000 in technical assistance for planning projects and up to \$100,000 for preliminary engineering projects (up to 30 percent design).

As in previous years, the RRSP application process was combined with the Transportation-Land Use Connections Program, which is a TPB program that operates on the same model as RRSP. Applicants had the opportunity to submit one joint application for both programs – or they could choose to apply just for one program. Two applications were submitted for both programs.

The TPB received 11 applications (four from Maryland jurisdictions and seven from Virginia jurisdictions) requesting a total of \$900,000 in technical assistance. Maryland jurisdictions requested \$320,000 total in assistance and Virginia jurisdictions requested \$580,000 total in assistance. Following the selection panel meeting and the subsequent presentation to the TPB Technical Committee on May 1, 2026, Maryland and Virginia both agreed to fund additional projects. Maryland agreed to provide an additional \$100,000 to fund Circling Back: Innovative Options for Residential Intersection in Takoma Park and Virginia agreed to provide an additional \$80,000 to fund the Maplewood Neighborhood Traffic Study in Prince William County.

For FY 2027, the RRSP is tentatively anticipated to be funded for a total of \$500,000. This budget includes four funding sources:

- \$180,000 from the TPB's FY 2027 UPWP core regional planning funds
- \$132,000 of Virginia UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$152,000 of Maryland UPWP Technical Assistance
- \$36,000 of District of Columbia UPWP Technical Assistance

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel included the following members:

- Tim Richards, Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Cecil Niles, District Department of Transportation
- Bobby Mangalath, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Janie Nham, COG/TPB staff

The selection panel met on April 23 to review the project applications and develop a list of recommended projects. Panelists applied TPB funding priorities as well as their own extensive knowledge of roadway safety to assess the proposed projects. Each panel member individually reviewed and scored each application in advance of the meeting and assigned each application a high, medium, or low ranking based on their scores. The rankings served as a foundation for the panel's collective discussion.

Based upon a consensus developed through the panel's April 23 meeting and subsequent exchanges, the selection panel developed a list of six projects to recommend to the TPB for approval. The panel believes this package of projects will result in safety improvements, including fewer deaths and injuries. In developing its recommendations, the panel strove to equitably allocate program funds between each state while taking into consideration the strongest project applications.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

TPB staff requests that the TPB approve the recommended collection of six projects for technical assistance funding under the FY 2027 RRSP. Upon approval, TPB staff will coordinate with the relevant jurisdictions to finalize project scopes of work and begin the consultant selection process. Work on the specific projects will begin after consultant contracts are signed. The projects are anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2027.

For further questions regarding the RRSP, please contact Janie Nham (jnham@mwkog.org) or Jamie Bufkin (jbufkin@mwkog.org).

Regional Roadway Safety Program
FY 2027

Jurisdiction	State	Project Title	Budget Request	Panel Recommendations
Charles County	MD	Neighborhood Greenway Guidelines and Strategy Toolkit	\$60,000	
Montgomery County	MD	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons in Context: An Evidence-Based Assessment by Roadway and Land Use	\$80,000	\$80,000
Takoma Park, City of	MD	Between the Creeks: Flower Avenue Traffic Study	\$80,000	\$80,000
Takoma Park, City of	MD	Circling Back: Innovative Options for Residential Intersections	\$100,000	\$100,000
		TOTAL MARYLAND	\$320,000	\$260,000
Alexandria	VA	Mount Vernon Avenue Corridor Study	\$80,000	\$80,000
Fairfax, City of	VA	Pickett Road Corridor Roadway Safety Audit	\$80,000	\$80,000
Fairfax County	VA	Kingstowne Village Parkway Safety Project	\$100,000	
Prince William County	VA	Maplewood Neighborhood Traffic Study	\$80,000	\$80,000
Prince William County	VA	Lucasville / Brentsville / Bristow Intersection Analysis	\$80,000	
Prince William County	VA	Hedges Run Drive and Cotton Mill Drive Roundabout Alternatives Analysis	\$80,000	
Prince William County	VA	Dale Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study (Dale City and Potomac Town Center Connectivity)	\$80,000	
		TOTAL VIRGINIA	\$580,000	\$240,000
		TOTAL	\$900,000	\$500,000