



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Victoria Caudullo, Transportation Planner and Grants Program Manager
SUBJECT: FY 2026-2027 Transit Within Reach Technical Assistance Funding Recommendations
DATE: November 7, 2025

This memo provides information on the recommendations of the selection panel for the FY 2026-2027 round of technical assistance under the Transit Within Reach Program. The TPB is scheduled to vote on the recommendations at its meeting on November 19.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Over the next decade, more than half of the region's job growth and over 40 percent of the region's new households are forecast to be located within a half-mile of high-capacity transit. Yet, even where transit is physically close, it often is not within reach for people who walk and bike. Sidewalks are missing, crosswalks are unsafe, trails and paths are yet to be built.

Regional policy has confirmed the importance of walk and bike access to transit. The region's long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045, identified "Improving Walk and Bike Access to Transit" as one of seven regional initiatives that can positively affect travel conditions in the future. The plan noted that investments to improve nonmotorized access to transit should be considered regionally significant because they will not simply serve local circulation needs but will also improve access to regional transit systems, including Metrorail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, and bus rapid transit. Visualize 2050 is expected to be approved in late 2025 and echoes these goals.

The Transit Within Reach program has sharpened the TPB's focus on this issue by funding preliminary design or preliminary engineering (up to 30 percent) for small, high-impact projects that improve bike and walk access to transit. The program was launched four years ago and has previously funded 6 projects through two cycles of funding.

This summer the program underwent its third solicitation. In November, the program's selection panel identified three projects for funding in FY 2026-2027.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2026-2027

A total of \$250,000 is available in FY 2026-2027 through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Technical Assistance Regional Transit Account. The three projects recommended for funding are described below.

Sunrise Valley Drive Protected Bicycle Infrastructure (30% Design)

Fairfax County, \$84,000

This project will fund 30% designs for approximately 1.5 miles of on-street protected bicycle infrastructure on Sunrise Valley Drive between the Innovation Center Metro Station entrance and Frying Pan Road. The project will improve pedestrian and bicyclist access to the Innovation Center Metro station and four bus routes and is within a MWCOG designated High Capacity Transit (HCT) station area. This project will provide bicycle connections and improve walkability between Innovation Center Metro and numerous medium and high-density housing developments, restaurants, shops, hotels, parks, and trails. The project's final products will include a traffic study to evaluate impacts of travel lane removal on vehicular traffic, conceptual 30% designs of pavement markings, signage plans, and signal modification plans, and a cost estimate to implement the project.

Lockwood Drive Shared Use Path (30% Design)

Montgomery County, \$83,000

This project will fund 30% designs for a shared use path on Lockwood Drive from Oak Leaf Drive to New Hampshire Avenue in Montgomery County. There is an existing shared use path on Lockwood Drive beginning at Northwest Drive and terminating at Oak Leaf Drive; this project will extend the shared use path by an additional 0.2 miles. The project will connect bicyclists and pedestrians to two MWCOG designated High Capacity Transit (HCT) station areas as well as multiple Capital Bikeshare stations. The final products resulting from this project include selection of a preferred route, data collection, 30% design drawings, and a cost estimate.

Lewis Avenue Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements (Preliminary Design)

City of Rockville, \$83,000

In a neighborhood adjacent to Twinbrook Metro, this project will prepare a road survey and develop preliminary engineering plans for improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities on an approximately 1.3-mile corridor. The project scope will include developing recommendations for the type of separated bike facility on Lewis Avenue between Rockland Avenue and Halpine Road as well as traffic calming, pedestrian improvements, and shared bike lane treatments on Lewis Avenue from Edmonston Drive to Rockland Avenue and on Ardennes Avenue from Halpine Road to Holland Road. Traffic calming devices could include curb bump-outs, speed bumps, improved signage, and more.

APPLICATION PROCESS

In June 2025, the TPB issued a call for projects for the FY 2026-2027 round of the Transit Within Reach Program. The application period for FY 2026-2027 closed on August 8, 2025. 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 applications.

Applicants could request technical assistance for up to \$100,000 for preliminary design or engineering projects. The Call for Projects and the application placed a focus on improving walk and bike access to transit, access improvements that will increase transit ridership and/or utilization of available ridership capacity, access for low-income communities, collaboration with other agencies or jurisdictions, and strategies to advance projects to construction.

The TPB received three applications in response to this solicitation. Total requested funding for the entire application package was \$290,000. For this application cycle, \$250,000 is available from the Regional Transit UPWP Technical Assistance Account.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel included the following members:

- Stephen Miller, Chair of Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee
- Tiffany Jennings, previous Chair of Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
- Michael Farrell, TPB staff
- Pierre Gaunard, TPB staff
- Victoria Caudullo, TPB staff

The selection panel meeting was facilitated by Victoria Caudullo. The panel met on November 3 to review the project applications and develop a list of recommended projects. The selection panel used program priorities and their own extensive industry knowledge to assess the proposed projects. The selection panel members individually reviewed and scored each application in advance based on their assessments of the projects as well as regional criteria.

Based upon discussion of the regional and local merits of the applications, the selection panel developed a list of three 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 aimed to equitably allocate funding across the region and across different modes of transit.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPLETION TIMELINE

On November 19, 2025, the TPB will be asked to approve the proposed slate of three projects for technical assistance under the FY 2026-2027 Transit Within Reach Program. Upon approval of the projects, TPB staff will begin to coordinate with the jurisdictions that have been awarded technical assistance to commence the consultant selection process from the pre-qualified list of consultants. All projects will begin soon after consultant contracts are signed. The projects will be scheduled for completion near the end of calendar year 2026.

For further questions regarding the Transit Within Reach Program, contact Victoria Caudullo (vcaudullo@mwkog.org; 202-962-3200).