



### FY 2026 – 2029 TIP Call for Projects

#### Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Surface Transportation Block Grant – Transportation Alternatives (STBG-TA), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) & Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ PM 2.5) Funds

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is currently developing the Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is updated on a three-year cycle and covers a period of four years. Therefore, the current FY 2023-2026 TIP will transition to a new FY 2026-2029 TIP. This call for projects allows jurisdictions to apply for new projects, or roll over and update unobligated phases of projects currently programmed in the FY 2023-2026 TIP.

**Project Eligibility:** STBG projects to improve roadway safety, capacity, operations, or other conditions must be located facilities identified on the federal functional classification system as an Urban Minor Collector or higher. Bicycle/Pedestrian and other multimodal projects (e.g., sidewalks, greenways, transit) are not required to be on the federal functional classification system.

CRP funding is available for projects that support the reduction of transportation emissions.

CMAQ funding is available to reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (nonattainment areas) and for former nonattainment areas that are now in compliance (maintenance areas).

In addition, projects should be included in the fiscally constrained project list of the Knoxville TPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (*Mobility Plan 2050*). In some instances, projects not individually listed, yet consistent with Mobility Plan 2050, may be eligible to proceed. Projects not currently included in the Mobility Plan fiscally constrained project list should be considered for the TIP only when new funds have been identified to advance the project.

If you have questions regarding project eligibility, please contact TPO staff to discuss.

#### **Funding Available:**

**Local Surface Transportation Block Grant (L-STBG):** TPO staff projects a federal fund balance of approximately \$70.2 million in FY 2026 available to program projects rolled over from the current



TIP, cover funding shortfalls in rollover projects and fund new projects. Fiscal years 2027 through 2029 are projected to have approximately \$14 million available annually.

**Local Surface Transportation Block Grant Transportation Alternatives Program (L-STBG-TA):**

Approximately \$5.2M is available to program projects rolled over from the current TIP, cover funding shortfalls in rollover projects and fund new projects in FY 2026. Fiscal years 2027 through 2029 are projected to have approximately \$1.7M available annually.

**Carbon Reduction Program (CRP):** Approximately \$2.6M is available to program projects rolled over from the current TIP, cover funding shortfalls in rollover projects and fund new projects in FY 2026. Fiscal years 2027 through 2029 are projected to have approximately \$1.7 available annually.

**Funding Contingency Reserve Consideration** – See funding tables below for projected revenue balances and available funding after accounting for funding contingency reserve amounts.

Fiscal Year 2026-2029 L-STBG Forecast (Federal Amounts)					
TPO STBG Funds	Opening Balance	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Annual Allocation		\$13.6M	\$13.9M	\$14.2M	\$14.5M
Allocation + Balance Carry Over	\$70.2M	\$83.8M	\$45.1M	\$45.2M	\$55.7M
Projected Rollover Programming		\$52.5M	\$14.1M	\$4.0M	\$0
Balance		\$31.3M	\$31.1M	\$41.2M	\$55.7M
Funding Contingency Reserve (based on proposed update to 10% reserve)					\$12.6M
Available					\$43.0M



Fiscal Year 2026-2029 L-STBG-TA Forecast (Federal Amounts)					
TPO STBG-TA Funds	Opening Balance	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Annual Allocation		\$1.6M	\$1.7M	\$1.7M	\$1.7M
Allocation + Balance Carry Over	\$5.2M	\$6.8M	\$1.9M	\$0	\$4.4M
Projected Rollover Programming		\$5.6M	\$1.9M	\$0	\$0
Balance		\$1.2M	\$944K	\$2.6M	\$4.4M
Funding Contingency Reserve (based on proposed update to 10% reserve)					\$1.2M
Available					\$3.2M

Fiscal Year 2026-2029 CRP Forecast (Federal Amounts)					
TPO CRP Funds	Opening Balance	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Annual Allocation		\$1.6M	\$1.7M	\$1.7M	\$1.7M
Allocation + Balance Carry Over	\$2.6M	\$4.2M	\$5.4M	\$7.1M	\$4.3M
Projected Rollover Programming		\$431K	\$0	\$4.5M	\$0
Balance		\$3.8M	\$5.4M	\$2.6M	\$4.3M
Funding Contingency Reserve (based on proposed update to 10% reserve)					\$930K
Available					\$3.4M

Final revenue amounts will be determined by authorizations from the federal transportation bill. Carryover funds may be impacted by cost increases within the current TIP program.

**Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) PM 2.5 Program:** While the TPO has not received programming authority for CMAQ PM 2.5 funds beyond 2025, this project call serves as an opportunity to develop a project list from which the TPO can coordinate with the TDOT Air Quality Office to seek programming authority in FY 2026 and beyond.



### Project Cost Estimates:

Construction phase estimates must include an appropriate contingency factor, as well as construction engineering & inspection and TDOT oversight costs.

Year of expenditure consideration: Project costs are programmed in the TIP in year of expenditure dollars. Please provide project costs in current year (FY 2025) dollars. From this baseline, TPO staff will apply the following inflation rates to project a year of expenditure cost for future years.

- FY 2026 – 5.5%      FY 2027 – 4.5%      FY 2028/29 – 3.5%

The current TDOT project cost estimator tool will be provided with the application materials.

Project cost totals should reflect all previously obligated costs.

### Application Process:

- **Timeline –**

Begin Call for Projects – January 17, 2025

End Call for Projects – Friday, February 28, 2025

TPO Staff Scoring and Project Selection Recommendation – March, 2025

Draft TIP to Technical Committee/Executive Board for Review – June, 2025

Final TIP Technical Committee Recommendation/Executive Board Adoption – October, 2025

- **Application Forms** – New projects (those not rolled over from FY 2026-2029 TIP) will submit a full application form. Projects programmed in the current TIP (and eligible for rollover programming, as determined by TIP Policies) will submit a simplified project rollover/update form. Please contact TPO staff for any questions about the application forms, or to verify which form to complete.
- **Fiscal Year for Programming Requests** – TIP programming should reflect the federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30).
- **Evaluation Criteria** – New projects will be scored based on the goals and factors developed as part of the Mobility Plan 2050 and identified on the Application Form as well as included as part of this information supplement.