



Urban Transportation Planning Grant

Program Purpose

The Urban Transportation Planning Grant program is intended to assist jurisdictions (both municipalities and counties) located within a Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Planning Area to identify needs and promote solutions that lead to an interconnected community with efficient modes of transportation. This initial year 2020 (fall 2020 or early 2021), will be a pilot to determine if this program will benefit communities within a MPO's Planning Area with their transportation planning needs.

Program Goals

- Assist urban jurisdictions to identify solutions, within their communities, that define the transportation cohesiveness between a multimodal transportation system to achieve the State of Tennessee's transportation goals.
- Guide in determining the strategies that will support improvements in traffic flow, safety, mobility, and overall efficiency of the transportation system.
- Provide identified jurisdictions with planning resources to achieve community visions as related to transportation and land use needs that promote future economic growth.

Eligible Applicants

- Must be a Tennessee jurisdiction, both municipal and county areas located within a MPO's Planning Area.
- Multiple jurisdictions will be able to apply jointly.

Key Facts

- \$200,000 maximum amount for planning services.
- 90% of consultant services will be funded by TDOT.
- 10% of the project cost must be a local cash match on behalf of the awarded municipality.
- Project will be managed by local jurisdictions using one of TDOT's Long Range Planning Division's on-call consultants.
- Length of projects shall not exceed 12 months.
- No more than 1 project per MPO planning area will be awarded in the first year of this grant.

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Requirements

- Establish a dedicated “Steering Committee” of community leaders who will participate for the length of the study. This will involve allocating time for meetings and facilitating community input. The committee shall include at least one staff member from the MPO and one from TDOT’s Office of Community Transportation OCT.
- Illustrate interest and support from local government officials as well as other traditional and non-traditional partners within the project area who recognize the need and importance of the planning effort to their community.
- Adopt a resolution (or a letter of support from the mayor or county executive) by the participating jurisdiction(s) to implement, to the best of their ability, recommendations from the study.
- Identified projects and recommendations from the study should support the goals of the MPO’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Eligible Activities

- Transportation plans that include analysis to determine multimodal transportation needs to increase the accessibility, mobility, and safety of people and freight, such as active transportation plans, safety focused plans (motorized and non-motorized), urban freight studies, and community mobility plans.
- Transportation planning activities to better coordinate transportation and land-use decisions, including corridor studies and school siting/industrial-commercial siting.
- Transportation planning activities to support a Corridor Management Agreement including curbside management in more urban environments.
- Transportation plans to enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, such as a Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSMO) study, a smart mobility plan, or a transportation resilience or transportation sustainability plan.
- Transportation plans that address parking management and transportation demand management (TDM) strategies that support the use of transit, reduce private automobile demand, or promote alternative and/or shared modes, including transit-oriented development plans, urban area parking studies, and park-n-ride investment plans.
- Other innovative transportation-related planning projects and activities that are consistent with both the MPO’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the State of Tennessee’s transportation goals.



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Application Process

1. Grant Application first steps (The overall program will be managed by OCT, the same as the Department's Community Transportation Planning Grant Program. The MPO will serve in an administrative capacity to get the word out on grant opportunity)
 - a. TDOT will conduct a call for projects through a Notice of Intent (NOI).
 - b. All approved NOIs will be given a Notice to Proceed to complete a full application.
 - c. Completed application packets must be submitted to TDOT by the date and time posted by TDOT.
2. Selection Committee
 - a. A selection committee made of TDOT staff will be selected to evaluate the applications.
 - b. All applications will be sent to the respective MPO so that they are aware of submitted applications within their planning area. The MPO may endorse, acknowledge, or rank the applications in their area for consideration by the TDOT Selection Committee.
 - c. The TDOT Selection Committee shall recommend qualifying applications to the Long Range Planning Director for review and approval.
 - d. All approved applications shall be amended into the MPO's UPWP before the planning effort can be initiated.
3. Evaluation Criteria
 - a. The applications will be evaluated by the TDOT Selection Committee on the following criteria:
 - i. Completeness of applications submitted on-time
 - ii. Identified Transportation Need such as local or regional connectivity
 - iii. Accessibility – access to local or regional services and facilities
 - iv. Economic Development – supporting economic growth, commerce, tourism, or revitalization
 - v. Safety – to address safety concerns in the jurisdiction
 - vi. Community Support
4. Grant Recommendations
 - a. The selection committee will submit all grant recommendations for award to the Director of Long Range Planning for review with Deputy Commissioner and Bureau Chief of Environment and Planning to endorse qualifying applications.
5. Grant Approvals
 - a. TDOT will notify grant recipients (as well as the respective MPO).
6. Grant Management
 - a. Once a grant is accepted and the contract is approved, the awarded jurisdiction will submit the contract along with payment in the amount of 10% of the grant award. In coordination with the local jurisdiction:
 - i. TDOT Long Range Planning will procure consultant services for the project.
 - ii. TDOT Long Range Planning will approve the scope and budget submitted by the consultant.
 - iii. TDOT Long Range Planning will ensure all grant deliverables and timelines are met.
 - iv. TDOT Long Range Planning will ensure the community along with the selected consultant presents the final product to the MPO.