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Harrisonburg, Virginia Federal Funding Profile

Navigating the funding transportation funding process, especially the federal funding process can be difficult, for both agency staff and advocates. Each state and jurisdiction has particular rules, practices, personnel and contexts, which determine how decisions get made. To understand the system, it is helpful learn the **who, what, where and when** of each funding source. The following is an attempt to answer these questions for Harrisonburg and Virginia. This profile template can be used as a guide to gather this information in any community.

The focus of this profile is on un- or under-utilized programs like the Surface Transportation Program (STP), the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and the State and Community Highway Safety Grants (Section 402).

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds safety projects aimed at reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Bike and pedestrian safety projects are eligible for HSIP funding. All public roads – including state, borough and local roads – are eligible for HSIP funding. Examples of eligible projects include bike lanes, roadway shoulders, crosswalks, other intersection improvements and signage. See the Advocacy Advance report on HSIP case studies: http://www.advocacyadvance.org/site_images/content/hsip_casestudies_shsp_emphasis.pdf

The federal HSIP, managed by VDOT, provides funding to improve areas with an abnormally high incidence of crashes, including bike-ped safety.

A minimum of 10% of Virginia's fund are set aside for bike-ped safety improvements. Grant applications are due in January with at least a 10% local match.

Localities & VDOT districts can submit project applications to the HSIP program manager, Stephen Read. Potential projects are analyzed on an economic benefit/cost ratio. No more than \$1 million is available per project.

HSIP Resources:

About the HSIP program in Virginia:

http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ted_app_pro.asp

FY 201 guidelines:

http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/ted_hsip_2011/HSIP_Guidelines_FY12-13.pdf

For more information contact Stephen Read at Stephen.read@vdot.virginia.gov.

Section 402 – State and Community Highway Safety Grants

Section 402, the State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program, is a federal program that provides funds for education, enforcement and research programs designed to reduce traffic crashes, deaths, injuries, and property damage. Under Section 402, bike and pedestrian safety programs are eligible to receive funding for projects such as these:

- *Comprehensive school-based pedestrian and bike safety education programs*
- *Helmet distribution programs*
- *Pedestrian safety programs for older adults*
- *Training in use of pedestrian and bicycle design guidelines*
- *Community information and education programs*
- *Public information in May, such as “Bike Safety Month”, and in September, “Back to School Safety Month.”*
- *Public information for school zone and crosswalk safety*
- *Public information about older adults and impaired pedestrian*

Which agency administers 402 grants?

DMV's Virginia Highway Safety Office (VAHSO)

What is the selection process?

<http://www.dmv.state.va.us/webdoc/safety/grants/index.asp>

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

The Surface Transportation Program provides flexible funding that may be used by states and localities for projects on roads, bridges and transit. STP funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use and walking.

Plans are included in a 6 year transportation improvement program by the VDOT central office. Governor approves list. Projects come from state – mostly primary roads and interstates.

Transit Enhancement Program

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation provides money for enhancement to transit systems including the accommodation of bicycles, bicycle access, and multi-modal connections.

Funding requires a 5% local match. Grant applications are due January 31st.

For more information contact the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation:
<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/>

Transportation Enhancement Grants

VDOT's Transportation Enhancement Program offers broad opportunities and federal funding for creative projects that integrated transportation into our communities and environment. These federal funds cannot be used for traditional highway projects or roadway improvements. They are for activities that go above and beyond common transportation practice.

To qualify for funds a project must meet two federal criteria: 1) Relate to surface transportation 2) Qualify under at least one of the 12 designated enhancement activities. Applications are accepted on an annual basis. To be considered for funding, applications must be received in VDOT's Local Assistance Division before December 1st of each year. The program is available to all local governments.

At least a 20% match in funding is required. The total funds requested per cycle should not exceed \$1 million.

For more information about VDOT's Transportation Enhancement program, email:
enhancementprogram@vdot.virginia.gov.

Safe Routes to School

VDOT's Safe Routes to School program provides funding to:

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution near schools.

Up to \$500,000 in funding is available per infrastructure project. A locality can submit more than one infrastructure project, but localities cannot receive more than \$500,000 total. A single application can be no less than \$20,000. Mini-grants of \$1,000 are also available.

For more information about Safe Routes to School, please contact Robert Williams at robertj.williams@vdot.virginia.gov.

Recreational Access Program

VDOT's Recreational Access Program was developed to provide adequate access to public recreational facilities or historic sites operated by a state agency, a locality or a local authority. "Access" can either be provided by an access road or a bicycle facility.

Eligible projects include: construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and improvement of roads and bikeways to local and state-run recreational or historic facilities.

Up to \$60,000 in funds per project are available year-round with an additional \$15,000 in funds available if matched.

For more information contact VDOT's Local Assistance Division:

<http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance.asp>

DCR: Recreational Trails

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recreational trails grant program provides funding for trail efforts that would not otherwise be possible. Funding preference is given to multiple-use projects.

Grant awards are usually made for between \$25,000 and \$100,000. The grants cannot be used for planning or studies, and require at least a 20 percent match.

Grant applications are typically due in April of each year.

For more information about the Recreational Trails Program, please contact Synthia Waymack at synthia.waymack@dcr.virginia.gov.

DMV: 402 Highway Safety Program

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) provides money for projects or programs designed to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities on our highways. A wide range of transportation safety related activities are eligible to receive funding through this program including bicycle safety.

Annual grants are available to address a specific safety issue. Applications are due to the DMV in April. No local match is required.

Mini grants of up to \$1,500 are available year-round for a variety of safety programs. No local match is required.

For more information about the DMV Highway Safety Program, see:
<http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/safety/programs/index.asp>

MPO: Planning

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization consists of the City of Harrisonburg and the urbanized areas of Rockingham County and the towns of Dayton, Bridgewater and Mount Crawford. The MPO's purpose is to develop long range transportation plans and studies.

Proposed bicycle-pedestrian plans or studies should be presented to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Policy Board at its monthly meeting. If these plans or studies are included in the MPO's long range plans and annual work program, they will be eligible for funding. For more information about the HR MPO go to www.hrvampo.org

Who owns the majority of the roads?

VDOT maintains roads in most Virginia counties, but does not perform maintenance in cities and large towns, except for interstates and major primary roads within these jurisdictions. In the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area, Elkton, Grottoes, Bridgewater and Harrisonburg maintain their own roads.

Contacts

State Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

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Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

Each MPO has discretion

Highway Safety Improvement Program

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Safe Routes to Schools

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