



Tools to Increase Biking and Walking
Advocacy Advance



Hampton Roads Regional 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 Hampton Roads, 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 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and the State and Community Highway Safety Grants (Section 402).

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

MAP-21 combines previous biking and walking funding programs – Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails – into one program: Transportation Alternatives. Funding for the Recreational Trails Program is taken off the top, then remaining TA funding is divided up into two equal pots: 50% will be distributed by the state DOT through a competitive grant process and 50% will be distributed according to the share of population with the state. MPOs with populations greater than 200,000 will administer their own grant process; the other communities will be funded through the state DOT's grant process.

When is your TAP call for proposals and application deadline? When is the state's call for proposals and application deadline?

The HRTPO coordinates closely with VDOT Local Assistance Division (LAD), which administers the TAP for Virginia. LAD coordinates the application process and project scoring, using an application and scoring criteria that were developed in conjunction with the Virginia MPOs. Therefore, for HRTPO area applicants, there is only the state's call for applications and application deadline. This year the call for applications will be during August 2013 and the application deadline is November 1, 2013.

Are you doing a separate SAFETEA-LU call for proposals?

No.

Has the TAP application been written?

As of 6/27/13, it is still under development by VDOT LAD in conjunction with the MPOs.

What are the selection criteria?

As of 6/27/13, the selection criteria are still under development by VDOT LAD in conjunction with the MPOs.

Are bicycling and walking projects prioritized over other activities, such as environmental mitigation and boulevard conversion?

Cannot say as of 6/27/13 since the selection criteria are still under development.

Will the selection process prioritize a few large projects or more, smaller projects?

Cannot say as of 6/27/13 since the selection criteria are still under development.

Who sits on the selection committee?

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) members select projects to be funded by the state's portion of TAP funds. For the MPO portion of the funding, project selection is done as follows:

- 1. The Transportation Programming Subcommittee (TPS), a subcommittee of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC), reviews the project proposals and scores and submits its recommendations to the TTAC. The voting membership of the TPS is made up of one TTAC member from each locality and transit agency, two from VDOT, one from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), one from each transit agency, and one from the Virginia Port Authority (VPA).*
- 2. The TTAC considers the recommendations of the TPS and submits its recommendations to the HRTPO Board for approval. The voting membership of the TTAC is made up of up to three members from each locality, two members from VDOT, one member from each of the transit agencies, and one member from VPA.*
- 3. The HRTPO Board approves the final selection of TAP projects. The HRTPO Board is made up of one elected official from each locality; four General Assembly members; one member each from: each transit agency, VDOT, DRPT, and VPA.*

Are bicycling/walking advocates included as part of the selection committee?

No, but all of the meetings of the above are open to the public and include a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

Is your spending remaining SRTS funds from SAFETEA-LU?

Yes. Contact VDOT LAD for more information on this.

Are you keeping your Safe Routes to School Coordinator? What is his / her contact information?

VDOT is: Robert J. Williams, robertj.williams@vdot.virginia.gov, 804-371-4868

How is your state / region handling Safe Routes to School-type projects within the TAP application?

While the selection criteria are still under development, the current plan is to give a project a particular amount of points if it is a SRTS project.

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.

Is funding distributed among funding categories? Are funding categories tied to federal categories or another system? If another system, what is it?

Unsure about what is being asked here.

What is the project selection process?

The HRTPO has a documented CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process (see <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/cmaq-and-rstp/>). The basic steps are as follows:

- *The TTAC determines whether the project selection process will be open. This is dependent upon the availability of CMAQ and/or RSTP funds to allocate to new projects. If the TTAC determines to open the project selection process, the steps are as follows:*
 1. *A public notice is posted to solicit ideas from the general public for projects to be considered for CMAQ/RSTP funding. Ideas received from the public will be forwarded by HRTPO staff to the appropriate localities and/or agencies. This step usually occurs in July.*
 2. *Applications for project proposals are accepted from eligible recipients. This step usually begins in July and runs through mid-August.*
 3. *Submitted project proposals are analyzed and ranked by HRTPO staff. This step usually runs through the end of September.*
 4. *The TPS meets to review the project proposals and recommends selected projects to be funded with CMAQ or RSTP funds. This step usually occurs in October.*
 5. *The TTAC considers the recommendations of the TPS and makes a recommendation for consideration by the HRTPO Board. This step usually occurs in November.*
 6. *The HRTPO Board considers the TTAC recommendation and takes action to approve a set of projects and funding allocations for CMAQ and RSTP. This step usually occurs in November.*

Who sets the project selection policy?

The HRTPO Board.

Who makes funding decisions/selects projects?

The HRTPO Board ultimately makes those decisions/selections, based on recommendations by the TTAC (see steps above).

What does the project application look like? How was it written? Do good bike/ped projects score well?

*The applications may be downloaded at <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/cmaq-and-rstp/>
The applications were developed by HRTPO staff and approved by the TTAC and HRTPO Board.
HRTPO localities decided years ago to primarily fund bike/pedestrian projects with CMAQ funds, rather than RSTP funds.*

Who rates the applications?

As specified in Step 3 above, the project proposals are evaluated and scored by HRTPO staff using criteria and methodologies approved by the TTAC and HRTPO Board.

Who administers the projects?

Projects receiving RSTP funding may be administered by a locality, transit agency, or state agency like VDOT, DRPT, or VPA.

What is the timeline for project selection? Key dates for application and selection?

See above steps.

STP Resources:

See <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/cmaq-and-rstp/>

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

The CMAQ program funds transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. See our Advocacy Advance report on CMAQ: http://www.advocacyadvance.org/docs/lab_cmaq.pdf FHWA recently confirmed that bike/pedestrian projects are eligible for CMAQ funds: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/cmaqfunds.htm>

Where are the non-attainment areas in your state?

For non-attainment/maintenance areas as of 6/27/13, see <http://www.deq.state.va.us/Portals/0/DEQ/Air/Planning/planmap08.pdf> These are non-attainment/maintenance areas for the 1997 Ozone standard. It is anticipated that the 1997 standard will soon be revoked by EPA.

For the 2008 Ozone Standard, the area of Virginia designated as non-attainment for any pollutant is Northern Virginia.

Who sets project selection policy?

The HRTPO Board.

What is the project selection process?

See similar question under RSTP.

Who makes the project-selection decisions?

The HRTPO Board ultimately makes those decisions/selections, based on recommendations by the TTAC (see steps above under RSTP).

When are programming decisions made?

See steps above under RSTP.

Can good bike/pedestrian projects compete for funds?

Yes.

Funding History

For the 1993 – 2018 period, the HRTPO has allocated CMAQ funds to 44 active transportation projects, which represents 14% of all CMAQ projects for that period. A total of \$27,557,499 in CMAQ funding has been allocated to those 44 projects, which represents 8% of all CMAQ funds allocated for that period.

CMAQ Resources:

See <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/cmaq-and-rstp/>

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

Are bicycle and pedestrian safety identified as emphasis areas in your state’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan?

Bike & Pedestrian safety was not called out as a specific emphasis area in the 2012-2016 SHSP update but multimodal aspects are included under Roadway Departure and Intersection emphasis areas of the plan.

Have state HSIP funds been allocated to bicycle and pedestrian safety at a “fair share” in proportion to fatalities?

Yes, there are about 10-12% B&P deaths each year. The HSIP allocations to B&P Safety between FY07 and FY13 totaled 10% (some year’s less, some years more depending on the submitted project proposals). The Open Container funds that must be spent on HSIP eligible projects further allocated about 60% of the \$53M receive between FY07 and FY12 to B&P Safety projects.

What are the project selection criteria?

Project selection criteria and scoring provided as part of the on-line proposal spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is available for download from the VDOT HSIP website (http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ted_app_pro.asp). The detailed HSIP policy and procedures (guidelines) are currently being revised in response to MAP-21.

Who sets the project selection criteria?

VDOT Central Office HSIP staff set the criteria annually and review the submittals to score and prioritize projects for funding

Who makes the project selections?

VDOT Central Office HSIP staff with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approval

When are the proposals and decisions made?

Proposals are submitted and reviewed from fall to winter, preceding the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) update. The CTB approval occurs each spring for the next fiscal year.

HSIP Resources:

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

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?

Virginia Highway Safety Office, Department of Motor Vehicles

What is the selection process?

Refer to pages 10-17 of the 2013 Highway Safety Plan (HSP) for details on the process.

Who makes the selection decisions?

Determination of selection and the priority ratings of individual project requests include: (a) DMV/VAHSO Headquarters and Program Personnel that have the knowledge and expertise in specific problem areas (b) a committee of DMV/VAHSO management (c) VAHSO management advises the DMV Commissioner and the Secretary of Transportation.

What else do we need to know?

Grant Application cycle can be found in the HSP.

Match funding is required for projects.

Pages 47-48 of the 2013 HSP contain information as to current funded pedestrian/bike projects. Since 402 funding must cover a number of highway safety programs, there may be more “competition” for 402 monies from other emphasis areas.

402 Resources:

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

Contacts

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Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

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Highway Safety Improvement Program

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Documents

Transportation Improvement Program/State Transportation Improvement Program

For the HRTPO TIP, go to www.hrtpotip.org

For the VDOT STIP, go to: <http://www.virginiadot.org/about/stip.asp>

For the DRPT STIP, go to: <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/about/finance.aspx>