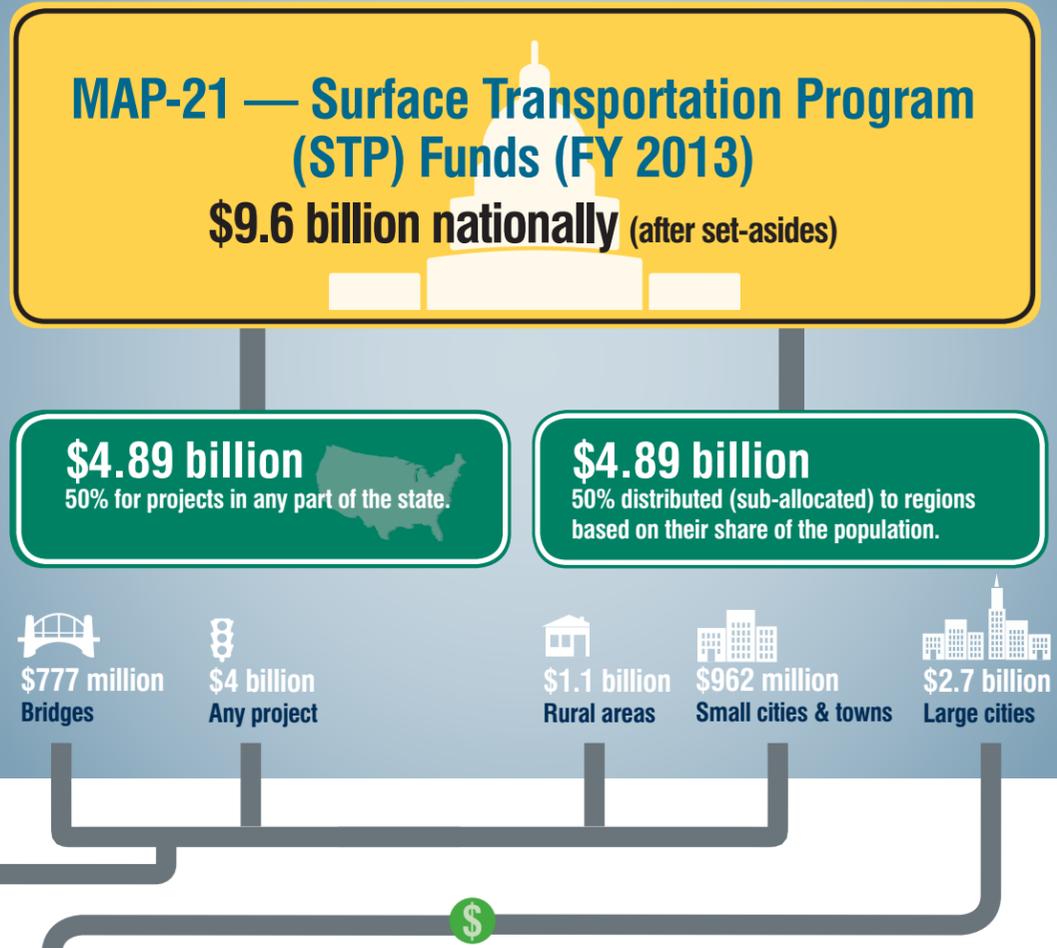


# SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

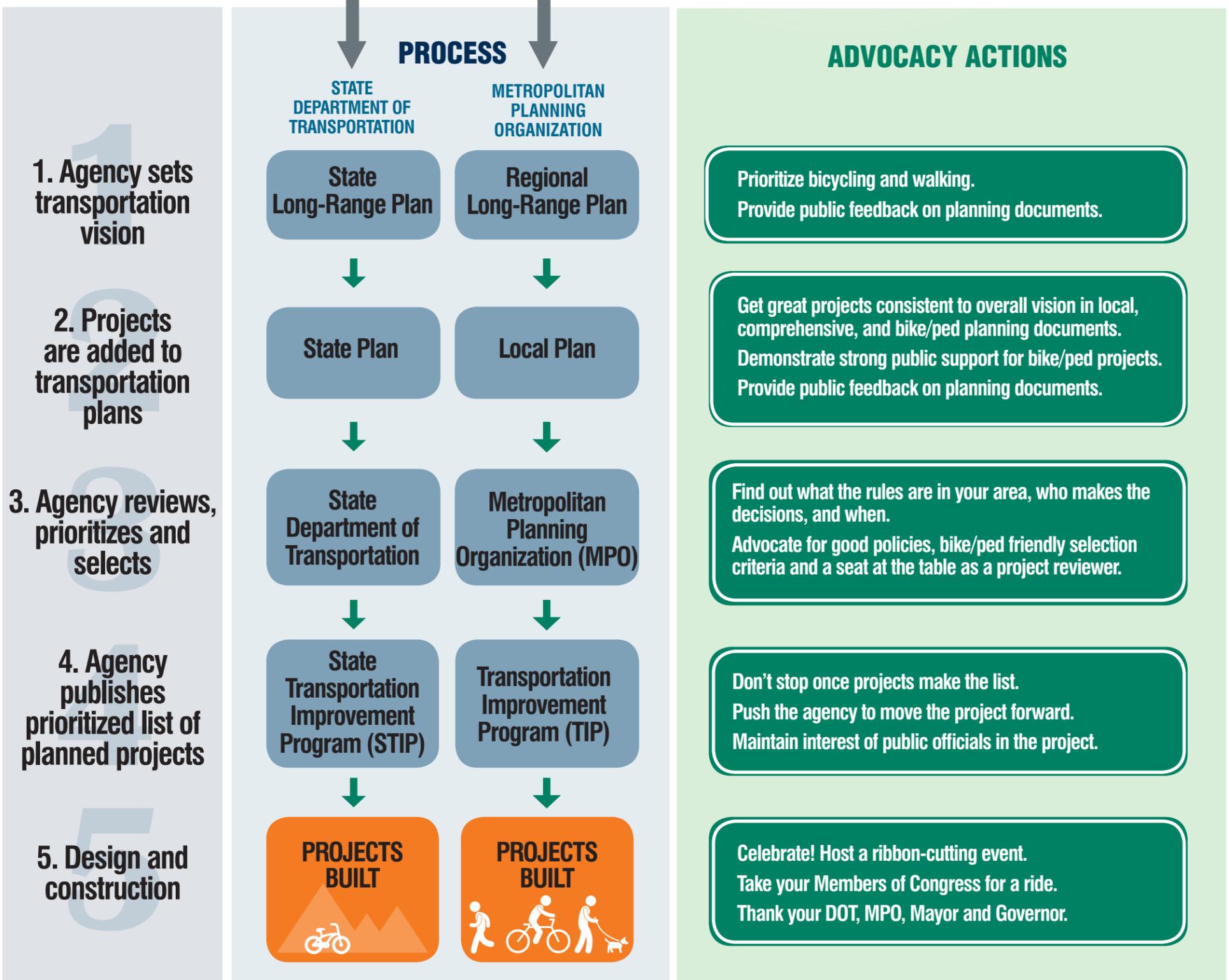
AN ADVOCATE'S GUIDE TO PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION IN FUNDING DECISIONS

The Surface Transportation Program (STP) is one of the biggest and most flexible federal funding sources. And as an advocate — or agency staff member — it's an important process to fully grasp: Many of the bicycle and pedestrian projects, including such as bike lanes, bike parking, sidewalks and crosswalks, in your community are built with these funds every year. The program is funded through the federal transportation bill, known as MAP-21. But How do you tap this large pool of money to advocate for better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in your community? This flow chart explains the process step by step — and engages bicycle advocates with suggested actions along the way.

## FUNDING FLOW



## STEP-BY-STEP ADVOCATE ACTION PLAN



# ADVOCACY TIPS FOR THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (STIP)



### Build political clout.

Let your political leadership know that bicycling and walking funds are available from a wide variety of funding sources, including the Surface Transportation Program. The rest of your work will be easier if you have political champions on your side. Keep the message simple: Cost-effective bicycling projects provide critical transportation options; let's make smart investments with our flexible funds.

### Engage agency staff.

Get to know the key decision makers among the regional and state transportation staff and also who influences them.

### Stay on message.

If all else fails, just keep saying, "bicycling is good for our communities," especially to your elected officials. Demonstrate the need, demand for, and popularity of bicycling infrastructure.



### Good planning leads to good projects.

- Make sure your region's Long Range Plan prioritizes bicycling and walking.
- Get good projects on local plans. To be eligible for federal funds, a project must be on an existing transportation plan, such as transportation master plans, bicycle master plans, greenway plans, pedestrian plans, and others.
- Do this by attending public meetings, writing letters to agencies and elected officials, meeting with local officials, and sitting on advisory committees.



### Timeline.

Know when there is a call for projects. Your new allies in the agencies can help.

### Be a part of the project selection process.

Get a seat at the table.

- Sit on the project selection committee, and/or
- Cultivate allies on the selection committee.

### Work with local, regional, and state governments to produce good applications for transportation-focused projects.

The support of mayors and others will help your chances of success.



### Enact and monitor Complete Streets policies.

State and regional Complete Streets policies, when followed, ensure transportation projects include appropriate accommodations for all road users.

### Examine design guidance.

Bicycling- and walking-friendly design standards at the state and regional level ensure the roads are built properly.

### Institutionalize good project selection criteria.

- Are bicycling and walking asked about in the application?
- Can bicycling and walking projects score well?
- Include points on the STP application for bicycling and walking components in projects.

## SOURCES

**Advocacy Advance** [www.AdvocacyAdvance.org/MAP21](http://www.AdvocacyAdvance.org/MAP21)

**23 United States Code §133** <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/23/133>

**See how much your state receives: Apportionment Notices** <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/notices/n4510761/>

**Congressional Research Service** <http://map21.transportation.org/Documents/R42762.pdf>

**Guide for Reviewing Public Road Design and Bicycling Accommodations (FABB)** <http://www.fabb-bikes.org/guide/>

**For project eligibility, see Find It, Fund It** [http://www.advocacyadvance.org/site\\_images/content/Find\\_It\\_Fund\\_It\\_chart.pdf](http://www.advocacyadvance.org/site_images/content/Find_It_Fund_It_chart.pdf)



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