

To: Transportation Sub-Committee
CC: Transportation Committee
From: Cara Radzins, Principal Transit Planner Planning
 Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation
Date: February 15, 2019
Subject: 2019 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Solicitation

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) will expire in 2020. To be prepared for subsequent legislation, CRCOG will soon be soliciting for Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program (TASP) project proposals for the five-year period of FFY 2021 to FFY 2025. While this solicitation will assume continuation of current funding levels, future legislation will dictate how many projects can be initiated. It is also anticipated that eligible activities and requirements for TASP will be carried over into future legislation. Eligible projects include: on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, multi-use trail projects, and safe routes to school projects.

Prioritized projects must be submitted by Transportation Management Area (TMA). As such, CRCOG staff is seeking input from the Transportation Committee on how to proceed before releasing the solicitation. Funding allocations are \$5,789,900 for the Hartford TMA and \$565,610 for the Springfield TMA, for a total of \$6,355,510. All Springfield funds must be used in CRCOG towns. The Hartford TMA, though composed mostly of CRCOG towns, also includes towns from Northwest Hills COG, Naugatuck Valley COG, and Lower Connecticut River Valley COG. Thus, CRCOG must submit a joint project ranking with these MPOs. Although the minimum project size is \$500,000, CRCOG staff recommends that we submit four projects costing approximately \$1.5-\$2 million each in order to utilize our full allotment of funds. Staff further recommends that one of these projects be from NVCOG (RiverCOG was awarded a Hartford TMA TASP project in 2016), while the other three are from CRCOG towns. There are two ways to approach this:

1. **Fair Share:** Based on population of partner MPOs, NVCOG's project is capped at \$1 million.

TMA	MPO	Population	% of Population	"Fair Share" of Funding
Hartford	NHCOG	4,621	0.50%	\$28,929
	NVCOG	77,912	8.42%	\$487,753
	RiverCOG	67,884	7.34%	\$424,975
	<i>Subtotal</i>	150,517	16.26%	\$941,656
	CRCOG	774,442	83.74%	\$4,848,244
	TOTAL	924,859	100.00%	\$5,789,900
Springfield	CRCOG	89,711	100%	\$565,610

2. **Equal Opportunity:** NVCOG receives \$1.5-\$2 million, the same as each CRCOG project.

Please note that all of CRCOG's TASP projects funded under the 2016 solicitation have been initiated. CTDOT has offered assurances that these projects will be continued with STP-Anywhere (or other) funds in the event that TASP carry-forward funds are rescinded in 2019. Therefore, the recommendation of new TASP projects will not affect an existing project's ability to proceed.

CRCOG staff is looking for action from the Transportation Committee as to which of the above funding distribution approaches should be taken, and the topic will be discussed in detail at the Transportation Sub-Committee on February 25, 2019. Based on this action, CRCOG staff will finalize the solicitation for this funding program and release it shortly thereafter. Further discussion will be needed regarding the ranking process and criteria for this program, and this topic will be addressed at the Sub-Committee Meeting on March 25, 2019.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Cara Radzins at cradzins@crcog.org or (860) 724-4251.