

To: Transportation Cost Review Sub-Committee; Transportation Committee  
 CC: Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning  
 Cara Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning  
 From: Michael Cipriano, Senior Transportation Planner  
 Date: March 15, 2024  
 Subject: 2024 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Solicitation Process

CRCOG will soon be soliciting for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project proposals for the five-year period of FFY 2026 to 2030. 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 TAP will be carried over into future legislation. Currently 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 TAP projects must be submitted by Transportation Management Area (TMA). The Hartford TMA, though composed mostly of CRCOG municipalities, also includes portions of Naugatuck Valley COG (NVCOG), Lower Connecticut River Valley COG (RiverCOG), and Northwest Hills COG. Thus, CRCOG must submit a joint project ranking with these COGs. The federal funding allocation for the Hartford TMA is \$12,695,210, which results in \$15,869,013 of total project funding, inclusive of the required 20% non-federal match.

COG	TMA Population	% of TMA Population
NHCOG	1,913	0.20%
NVCOG	74,390	7.60%
RiverCOG	67,916	6.95%
<i>Subtotal</i>	144,219	14.75%
CRCOG	833,433	85.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>977,652</b>	<b>100%</b>

In early March, CRCOG staff met with the other Hartford TMA representatives to determine a strategy for TAP project selection. From that discussion, **staff recommends that the same procedures from the 2019 solicitation be followed.** As such, CRCOG projects will receive 75% of the funding and non-CRCOG projects will receive the remaining 25%. The funds will be ranked/prioritized as follows: the first 50% of funds would be reserved for CRCOG projects, the next 25% for non-CRCOG project(s) (anticipated to be from RiverCOG, as the 2019 non-CRCOG project came from NVCOG), and the final 25% for the remaining CRCOG project(s).

COG	Federal Funding	Total Project Costs
CRCOG	\$9,521,408	\$11,901,759
Non-CRCOG	\$3,173,803	\$3,967,253
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,695,210</b>	<b>\$15,869,013</b>

The minimum project size for TAP is \$500,000 (federal share of \$400,000). All projects that meet or exceed this threshold will be considered up to a maximum project size of \$4.0 million (federal share of \$3.2 million). Projects larger than \$4.0 million should demonstrate a local match significant enough to maintain a federal share of \$3.2 million. CRCOG anticipates selecting between three and six projects during this solicitation, but the final number of projects that will be advanced to CTDOT will be based upon project costs and available funding allocations.

It is envisioned that the following schedule would enable selection, approval, and submission by CTDOT's deadline.

May 13, 2024	Project Applications Submitted to CRCOG
May 24, 2024	Short Listed Projects Selected by CRCOG Staff
June 10, 2024	Transportation Committee Special Meeting / Project Ranking
June 24, 2024	Transportation Committee Project Ranking Approval
June 26, 2024	Policy Board Project Ranking Approval

***CRCOG staff is seeking action from the Transportation Committee to approve the solicitation process outlined above.*** Based on this action, CRCOG staff will finalize the solicitation and release it shortly thereafter. The topic will be discussed in detail at the Transportation Cost Review Sub-Committee meeting on March 25, 2024. The Sub-Committee Meeting will also include a discussion on the selection criteria for this solicitation.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Michael Cipriano at [mcipriano@crcog.org](mailto:mcipriano@crcog.org) or (860) 724-4223.