



MEMBERS:

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston Regional Planning Council
FROM: Paul Brewster, Senior Planner *PB*
DATE: November 23, 2016
SUBJECT: 2017-2019 Federal Funding – Project Proposals

	Program Area	Mission Statement
X	MPO/RTPO	A
	Core Services	
	Contract Services	
	Grant Services	

PURPOSE

To act on project selection for the 2017-2019 Regional Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant proposals, and amend the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to include funded projects.

Summary:

- 28 proposals were submitted in response to TRPC's 2017-2019 Call for Projects. The total requests exceeded the available funds by \$170,993.
- Five public comments on six proposals were received during the 2-week public review.
- On November 9, the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) reviewed the project proposals and acted on a recommendation to TRPC. Because of the funding shortfall, they recommended not funding one project and reducing funding for 3 additional projects.
- After the TPB meeting, Thurston County offered to reduce their funding request for two projects, thus allowing an option to fully fund all other proposals.
- This report includes the TPB Recommendation and the Post-TPB Recommendation.

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve the TPB Recommendation for the CMAQ Grant Program, approve the Post-TPB Staff Recommendation for the STP and TAP Grant Programs, and amend the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program to include these projects.



Veena Tabbutt
Interim Executive Director

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360-956-7815 Fax

www.trpc.org

BACKGROUND

On December 2, TRPC will take final action on a selection of proposals to receive funding from the following federal grant programs:

- Surface Transportation Program (STP): \$6,905,076
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ): \$1,000,000
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): \$1,194,092

The Council will also act to amend the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program with the list of awarded projects.

Public Comments

The two-week public comment period for the 28 proposals closed on Friday, November 2 at 5:00 p.m. The public comment process also solicited comments for the 2017-2020 RTIP amendment. Five public comments concerning six proposals were submitted as part of the project selection process. Two comments were submitted after the comment period closed and therefore are not included in the public record for this process. No public comments were submitted concerning the RTIP amendment. A summary of the public comments is attached to this staff report.

Future Funding Conditions

There is uncertainty over TRPC's future federal funding allocations for this regional grant program. Across the state, regions are programming projects with the assumption that future revenues will reflect historic funding levels. The award letters for this process will follow that assumption. However, with the passage of the FAST Act, Washington State's formulas for allocating federal funding to MPOs and RTPOs for project prioritization may change and TRPC and other regions may receive less revenue than what they programmed for.

In that case, a lower than historic revenue allocation will impact the obligation schedules of the projects selected by TRPC. The RTIP will require amendments to align revenue with implementation schedules. TRPC may also need to issue an additional call for projects to identify contingency projects that more closely align with revenue allocations.

Regardless of what is stated on TRPC's award letters, jurisdictions will need to maintain a degree of flexibility as to when they obligate their federal grant awards. Jurisdictions intending to obligate projects in 2018 and beyond may be delayed by one or more years. The region should have a better understanding of the STP and TAP revenue allocations within the first half of 2017.

TPB RECOMMENDATION

On November 9, the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) deliberated during their extended meeting. While they found that all projects had merit, they needed to reconcile the \$170,993 disconnect between available funds and proposals. After several motions and much discussion, the TPB took action on the following recommendation to fund all but one proposal and reduce the award to three proposals:

STP: Fund all STP proposals as submitted. Award the remaining \$316,593 to one or more TAP or CMAQ proposals and Award Intercity Transit's Bus Stop Enhancements for Safety & Accessibility proposal the \$316,593 excess STP grant funds in lieu of TAP. This is \$12,107 less than the applicant's request.

CMAQ: Award \$1million in CMAQ funding to the Tumwater Deschutes Valley Trail and move Intercity Transit's CMAQ "Walk N Roll" Youth education proposal for consideration in TAP funding.

TAP: Fund all remaining TAP proposals, including Intercity Transit's CMAQ "Walk N Roll" Youth education Program at the full amount, with the following exceptions: Omit the City of Tumwater's Capitol Boulevard Crossing Improvement Proposal from the TAP funding recommendation, thereby reducing the revenue deficit by \$121,000; Award the City of Olympia's Pedestrian Crossing Flashing Beacon Installation at \$341,547 (\$18,893 less than requested); and Award the City of Yelm 's Fort Stevens Elementary -Pedestrian Crossing Improvements proposal \$396,056 (\$18,893 less than the applicant's request).

ALTERNATIVE POST-TPB STAFF RECOMMENDATION

One day after the TPB meeting, Thurston County offered to reduce their funding request for two county STP proposals by \$170,993. The county offered to split this difference between their 2018 and 2019 Countywide Restoration and Resurfacing Projects (STP 07 and 08). Each proposal would subsequently receive \$714,504 instead of the \$800,000 originally requested. The county is requesting the following conditions apply to this proposition:

1. If other projects save money and underspend, the remaining, unspent funds be redirected to one of the restoration and resurfacing projects;
2. TRPC maintain some flexibility with the county as to when the county can obligate its federal grants

The county's offer provides a path forward to fully fund all the other proposed projects.

The Alternative Post-TPB Staff Recommendation is as follows:

CMAQ: Approve the TPB Recommendation for the CMAQ Grant Program

- Award \$1 million in CMAQ funding to the Tumwater Deschutes Valley Trail; and
- Move Intercity Transit's CMAQ "Walk N Roll" Youth education proposal for consideration in TAP funding.

STP: Accept Thurston County's offer to reduce funding for 2 of their projects to ensure fully funding all applications

- Award both the 2018 and 2019 Countywide Restoration and Resurfacing Projects (STP 07 and 08) approximately \$85,496 less, each;
- Fund all the other STP proposals as submitted; and
- Use the remaining \$487,586 STP funds in lieu of TAP funds to fully fund TAP 03, Olympia's Pedestrian Crossing Flashing Beacon Installation, and TAP 09, Tumwater's Capitol Boulevard Pedestrian Crossing Improvements.

TAP: Fund all the TAP proposals with TAP grant funds as submitted, except TAP 03 and TAP 09 (funded with STP); and fully fund CMAQ 01, Intercity Transit's Youth Education Program Walk N Roll with TAP grant funds in lieu of CMAQ funds.

Amend the 2017-2020 RTIP to include the 2017-2019 CMAQ, STP, and TAP projects selected for funding.

Adopting this proposal would result in over programming the TAP grant program \$6,046 and under programming the STP program by \$6,046. However, staff believes the difference can be absorbed over the three-year STP/TAP combined allocation.

AWARD LETTERS

After Council action and before the end of 2016, TRPC staff will distribute award letters to the applicants specifying the grant program dollar award, the year of obligation, reporting requirements, conditions of de-federalizing grant funding by a local agency sponsor, and the condition of use for any remaining funds after a project closes.

RTIP AMENDMENT

RTIP amendments program federal funds in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which makes the funds accessible to a local agency at the time of obligation. RTIP amendments are due on January 20, 2017. In order to receive federal funding, projects need to be amended into the 2017-2020 RTIP.

The RTIP is a four-year programming document derived from the comprehensive six-year Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) that each local agency develops and adopts annually. In turn, the RTIP is used by the state to prepare the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Federal requirements stipulate that changes to the RTIP require an amendment to the original document, which then triggers an amendment to the STIP.

The Council is asked to include the RTIP amendment in their action.

TPB RECOMMENDATION: CMAQ Project Selection and Funding Distribution

Project ID	Applicant	CMAQ Proposal	CMAQ Request	Total Cost	TPB Recommendation
2016 CMAQ 01	Intercity Transit	Intercity Transit's Youth Education Program—Walk N Roll	\$145,000	\$168,000	Fund with TAP
2016 CMAQ 02	Tumwater	Deschutes Valley Trail: Tumwater Historical Park to Falls Park	\$1,000,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,000,000
Total CMAQ Requested			\$1,145,000		
Total Available to Program			\$1,000,000		
Difference			(\$145,000)		
TPB Recommendation Total					\$1,000,000
Total CMAQ Revenue to Program:			\$1,000,000		
TPB RECOMMENDATION:			\$1,000,000 to 1 Proposal		

ALTERNATIVE POST-TPB STAFF RECOMMENDATION: STP Project Selection and Funding Distribution

Project ID	Applicant	STP Proposal	STP Request	Total Cost	Alternative Recommendation
2016 STP 01	Lacey	College and 22nd Ave Roundabout	\$302,961	\$1,658,209	\$302,961
2016 STP 02	Olympia	Boulevard Road and Morse-Merryman Road Roundabout Construction	\$799,057	\$4,591,775	\$799,057
2016 STP 03	Rainier	Tipsoo Loop Chip Seal Project	\$35,309	\$442,600	\$35,309
2016 STP 04	Tenino	Sussex Crossing Improvements	\$51,085	\$59,058	\$51,085
2016 STP 05	Thurston County	Mullen Road – Lacey City Limits to Carpenter Road – Right of Way	\$300,000	\$1,100,000	\$300,000
2016 STP 06	Thurston County	Mullen Road – Lacey City Limits to Carpenter Road – Construction	\$2,000,000	\$6,500,000	\$2,000,000
2016 STP 07	Thurston County	Countywide Restoration and Resurfacing Project 2018 - reduced	\$714,504	\$826,016	\$714,504
2016 STP 08	Thurston County	Countywide Restoration and Resurfacing Project 2019 - reduced	\$714,503	\$826,015	\$714,503
2016 STP 09	Thurston County	Grand Mound Transportation Study	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$300,000
2016 STP 10	Thurston County	Main Street Rochester Strategy	\$216,250	\$250,000	\$216,250
2016 STP 11	Thurston County	Pacific Avenue and Yelm Highway Midblock Crosswalks Study	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$75,000
2016 STP 12	Thurston County	Safe and Active Routes to Schools – Thurston County	\$58,594	\$67,759	\$58,594
2016 STP 13	TRPC	Thurston County Bicycle Map, 6 th Edition	\$38,210	\$44,175	\$38,210
2016 STP 14	TRPC	Regional Transportation Data Management Program	\$35,464	\$41,000	\$35,464
2016 STP 15	Tumwater	Desoto Street Stabilization and Rehabilitation	\$700,000	\$120,000	\$700,000
2016 STP 16	Yelm	Yelm Avenue / 1st Street (SR507) Corridor Study	\$76,553	\$88,501	\$76,553
Total STP Requested			\$6,417,490		
Total Available to Program			\$6,905,076		
Difference			\$487,586		
2016 TAP 02	Olympia	Pedestrian Crossing Flashing Beacon Installation	Fund with STP in lieu of TAP		\$360,440
2016 TAP 09	Tumwater	Capitol Boulevard Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	Fund with STP in lieu of TAP		\$121,000
ALT Recommendation Total					\$6,899,030
Total STP Revenue to Program:			\$6,905,076		
ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION:			\$6,899,030 to 18 Proposals		
Remaining STP Funding:			\$6,046		

ALTERNATIVE POST-TPB STAFF RECOMMENDATION: TAP Project Selection and Funding Distribution

Project ID	Applicant	TAP Proposal	TAP Request	Total Cost	Alternative Recommendation
2016 TAP 01	Intercity Transit	Bus Stop Enhancements for Safety & Accessibility	\$328,700	\$380,000	\$328,700
2016 TAP 02	Lacey	Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan for Lacey and the Lacey UGA	\$117,600	\$137,600	\$117,600
2016 TAP 03	Olympia	Pedestrian Crossing Flashing Beacon Installation	\$360,440	\$416,700	Fund with STP
2016 TAP 04	Olympia School District	School Speed Limit Zone Flashing Beacon Installation Project	\$69,632	\$80,500	\$69,632
2016 TAP 05	Rainier	Binghampton Streetscape Phase 1 Crosswalk Signage Project	\$23,355	\$27,000	\$23,355
2016 TAP 06	Safe Kids Thurston County	Bike Helmets for Thurston County Students	\$10,077	\$12,688	\$10,077
2016 TAP 07	Tenino/Bucoda	Yelm-Tenino Trail Extension Feasibility Study	\$64,875	75,000	\$64,875
2016 TAP 08	Tenino	Yelm-Tenino Trail Wayfinding Signage	\$25,950	\$30,000	\$25,950
2016 TAP 09	Tumwater	Capitol Boulevard Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	\$121,100	\$140,000	Fund with STP
2016 TAP 10	Yelm	Fort Stevens Elementary - Pedestrian Improvements	\$414,949	\$479,710	\$414,949
Total TAP Requested			\$1,681,678		
Total Available to Program			\$1,194,092		
Difference			(\$487,586)		
2016 CMAQ 01	Intercity Transit	Intercity Transit's Youth Education Walk N Roll Program	Fund with TAP in lieu of CMAQ		\$145,000
ALT Recommendation Total					\$1,200,138

Total TAP Revenue to Program: \$1,194,092
ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION: \$1,200,138 to 9 Proposals
TAP Funding Shortfall: (\$6,046)

Public Comments

TRPC 2017-2019 Federal Funding Process

From October 24 to November 4, 2016, TRPC invited community members and transportation stakeholders to comment on the Surface Transportation Program (STP), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) grant proposals. 28 proposals were available for review and comment.

The legal notice was posted on TRPC.org and published in the Olympian on October 24 and 30 as follows:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR
PROJECTS IN THE THURSTON COUNTY REGION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) invites all community members and stakeholders to review and submit comments on 28 project proposals for TRPC's regional federal transportation grant program. TRPC will award \$6.63 million in Surface Transportation Program funds, \$1.2 million in Transportation Alternatives Program funds, and \$1 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds to eligible priority projects.

This public review also supports an amendment to the 2017-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). TRPC will conduct its final review and selection of projects on Friday, December 2. All projects selected for funding will be included in an amendment package for the RTIP in January, 2017.

The project proposals may be viewed online at www.trpc.org/callforprojects.

The deadline for comments is Friday, November 4, at 5:00 p.m. PST. Be sure to include the project identification number or title with your comment, as well as your own name and address.

Comments should be emailed to brewstp@trpc.org or mailed to:

Thurston Regional Planning Council, Suite A
2424 Heritage Court SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Those who need special accommodation to participate in this process should call 360.956.7575 and ask for the ADA Coordinator. Citizens with hearing impairment should call the state's toll-free relay service, 711, and ask the operator to dial 360.956.7575.

Summary of Public Comments

Five comments were received during the comment period. Two comments were submitted after the public comment period closed (November 4 at 5:00 p.m.) These proposals are not included in this summary.

Received	Project
2	STP 01 – Lacey College Street and 22 nd Avenue Roundabout
1	STP 09 Grand Mound Transportation Study STP 10 Main Street Rochester Strategy STP 12 Safe and Active Routes to School
1	STP 13 TRPC's Thurston County Bicycle Map, 6 th Edition
1	CMAQ 01 – Intercity Transit's "Walk N Roll" Youth Education Program

The comments are presented in the pages that follow.

From: Vaughn Nelson
To: [Paul Brewster](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Lacey College Street 2016 STP 01
Date: Tuesday, November 01, 2016 11:40:24 AM

Mr. Brewster,

I would like to give public comment ***against*** the Lacey College Street project.

The scope of the project leaves out cyclists as a mode of transportation. It is inconsistent with goals 1,2,3,11,16, and 20.

The current scope builds a 3' foot bike lane. A three foot bike lane is inappropriate for a 35 mph arterial. The city of Lacey has said that it is adequate for experienced cyclists and that putting in a 5' bike lane would increase the costs of the project by 5%. There are more bike accidents on this section of college street than any other location within Lacey city limits.

The city of Lacey is giving up an opportunity to complete a major bike corridor. There are already bike lanes to the south of Mullen Road. There are also a lot of other bike lanes that intersect or end at College Street that would be improved by completing the current gap.

The city of Lacey is also giving up major funding sources by omitting 5' bike lanes. The project will be less competitive for state and federal funding. The full corridor project from Mullen Road to Pacific costs \$35 million. If this first section is built without bike lanes, it will be very difficult to fund the rest.

Many citizens have spoken out against this project over the last 10 years, asking for 5' bike lanes to be added in. While the city of Lacey says this has been fully vetted, there is one mode of transportation that has been left out.

I agree that college street needs to be fixed, especially in front of Mountain View Elementary school; I live near College Street and use it daily as a motorist, cyclist, and pedestrian and my kids also attend Mountain View Elementary. However, leaving out bike lanes that would complete a major bike corridor is a serious error that will be regretted my future generations.

I hope that the TRPC will send a clear message to the city of Lacey that leaving a gap in the cyclist system is not what this region needs.

Vaughn Nelson
360-359-3777
2705 Judd St SE
Lacey, WA 98503

From: Jeff Ott
To: [Paul Brewster](#)
Subject: College Street Project - 2016 STP 01
Date: Friday, November 04, 2016 8:33:21 AM

Mr. Brewster:

College is a major north/south throughway in Lacey. Undoubtedly, improvements are needed. However, I find it inconceivable that a project of this magnitude, on a road that passes two schools (one located within the study area), does not have full 5' bicycle lanes. The original plan neglected to consider bikes all-together. The current proposal grudgingly includes unsafe, narrow bike lanes. Anyone who rides a bike on busy streets will tell you that the extra space afforded in a full 5' bike lane is critical to life and property. A properly designed bike lane provides a safe space from passing (and 'distracted driver') vehicles and provides room to avoid the glass, litter and other garbage that migrates to the gutter of our roads.

I know the improvement project is needed for our community. However, I cannot support a project that is not properly conceived and planned.

Respectfully submitted,

— Jeff Ott

PO Box 305
East Olympia, WA 98540

360-507-0746

From: Bill Zimmerman
To: [Paul Brewster](mailto:Paul.Brewster@trpc.org)
Subject: Re: Comments on Projects
Date: Thursday, November 03, 2016 6:06:58 PM

I am sending support of them. Thanks for your feedback to me.

William L. Zimmerman

On Thursday, November 3, 2016 1:26 PM, Paul Brewster <brewstp@trpc.org> wrote:

Hi Bill,

Thank you for contacting me. Can you please help clarify your message? Are you asking me for more information about these proposals or are you sending me a comment in support of TRPC funding these projects?

Have a good day,

Paul

Paul B. Brewster, Senior Planner
Thurston Regional Planning Council

brewstp@trpc.org | www.trpc.org

ph: (360) 741-2526 (direct) | (360)956-7575 (main) | (360) 956-7815 (fax)

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From: Bill Zimmerman [<mailto:wzimmy6@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2016 1:24 PM
To: Paul Brewster <brewstp@trpc.org>
Subject: Comments on Projects

I very interested in the following Project Grants and have read the information on them in the STP Project Proposals.

Project ID #09, Grand Mound Transportation Study.

Project ID #10, Main Street Rochester Strategy.

Project ID #12, Safe and Active Routes to Schools Thurston County.

Sincerely,
William L. Zimmeerman
PO Box 1324
Rochester, WA 98579

From: Jeff Ott
To: [Paul Brewster](#)
Subject: 2016 STP 13 - Thurston County Bicycle Map, 6th Edition
Date: Friday, November 04, 2016 8:39:18 AM

Mr. Brewster:

The Thurston County Bicycle map is a great resource for cyclist, families and residents as they explore the county's via roads and trails. Updating it will help to keep information current and meaningful. This project is definitely worthy of funding support.

Regards,

— Jeff Ott

PO Box 305
East Olympia, WA 98540

360-507-0746

From: Joy Snodgrass
To: [Paul Brewster](#)
Subject: Walk and Roll
Date: Thursday, November 03, 2016 9:03:08 PM

I am writing to add my voice of support for the great work being done in the walk n roll program. I have heard that they are looking to renew a grant to continue the work that they do, and I support that! This program gave my son confidence in keeping his bike safe and in working condition, while providing him with the skills to use his bike for transportation and not just entertainment. As we work to create more alternative means of transportation, giving kids the skills to ride on public streets safely is a great benefit to them and to the environment!

Please keep this great program funded!

Sincerely,
Joy Snodgrass
4425 74th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Joy Snodgrass
PAX Academic Exchange
Looking for quality host families for international high school exchange students
FAX 360 282 0063
TEL: 360 790 5086