



MEMORANDUM

TO: MPO Member Jurisdictions
FROM: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Staff
SUBJECT: Call for Projects – FY 2026 Special Transportation Studies
DATE April 16, 2025

Action needed:

No action is needed, discussion item only.

Background:

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (Tri-County or TCRPC) has programmed approximately \$135,000 of Fiscal Year 2026 Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds for local jurisdictions to undertake special transportation planning projects. Jurisdictions may apply for all or part of the \$135,000 but may not request any additional funding beyond the available amount. Phased projects are eligible, but there is no guarantee that additional funding will be made available in future years.

Eligible Projects

Funds must be used for transportation planning projects that meet the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), in particular 23 USC 134. These are the same requirements that the Commission uses under its responsibilities as an MPO. Examples of eligible projects include the following:

- Active transportation plans (bicycle/pedestrian plans)
- ADA transition plans
- Asset management (data collection and analysis)
- Congestion management planning
- Corridor and multimodal planning, including feasibility studies
- Freight planning, including air, barge, and rail
- Safety and security planning
- Traffic operation – planning studies
- Transit planning, including paratransit

This is not a complete list of eligible projects. To determine if your project is eligible, please discuss it with staff. Funds for engineering and construction are not allowed.

Use of Funds

These projects are for consultant-led projects only. TCRPC will follow its procurement policy to select the consultant to ensure that all federal regulations are followed. Funds may be used for travel expenses by the consultant; however, funds may not be used to purchase capital items (e.g., computers).

Project Requirements

Due to the funding source, projects must be completed by December 31, 2026, at the latest. The goal of this program is to further implement the ongoing planning and performance-based initiatives of the MPO. Tri-County will evaluate projects based on how the proposed scope of work supports the goals of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and/or the MPO's goals and objectives identified in its transportation planning documents: [Long-Range Transportation Plan 2050](#), [Human Service Transportation Plan Region 5 Update](#), [BikeConnect HOI](#), and [Congestion Management Process Update](#).

Project Schedule

Date	Action
April 16, 2025	Call for Projects released
May 16, 2025	Project applications due to staff by 3:30 pm
May 21, 2025	Project Review Subcommittee established by Technical
June 9, 2025	Project Review Subcommittee scores project(s) and makes recommendation
June 18, 2025	Technical Committee reviews project(s) recommendation and makes motion for Commission approval
July 2, 2025	Commission approves project(s)

Application Procedure

Applications must include the application questionnaire ([Google Form](#)) and any supporting documents (i.e., Resolution committing local match, letters of support, etc.). Applications are due Friday, May 16, 2025, by 3:30 p.m. and submitted electronically via the [Google Form](#) and emailing supporting documents to funding@tricountyrpc.org.

Evaluation of Projects

Evaluation of the projects utilizes the following criteria.

Criterion	Total Points
Consistency with Goals of the IIJA, LRTP, and other MPO Planning Documents	60
Regional Significance	40
Higher consideration due to local funding or jurisdictional partnership	10
TOTAL POINTS	100*

*Project scoring cannot exceed 100 points.

Please note the intention of the scoring criteria is meant to inform the Project Review Subcommittee's decisions, but not to determine them. Tri-County's PL funds are already matched; therefore, no local contribution is required, although projects with committed local funds will be given higher consideration. To receive higher consideration for contributing local funds, a resolution passed by the jurisdiction's governing body or letter signed by the Chief Elected Official committing local funds to the project must be provided. Higher consideration will also be given to applications including two or more jurisdictions.

FY 2026 Special Transportation Studies Application

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission requests applications from member jurisdictions for Special Transportation Studies. The Commission has programmed approximately \$135,000 of Fiscal Year 2026 Metropolitan Planning funds for local jurisdictions to undertake consultant-led transportation planning projects. The deadline for submitting project applications is 3:30 pm on Friday, May 16, 2025.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Jurisdiction Name *

3. Jurisdiction Address (Street, City, State, ZIP) *

4. Jurisdiction Contact Person *

5. Jurisdiction Contact Phone Number *

6. Jurisdiction Contact Email *

7. Type of Application *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Individual Application *Skip to question 13*

☐ Joint Application *Skip to question 8*

Joint Applicant

8. Joint Applicant Name

9. Joint Applicant Address

10. Joint Applicant Contact Person

11. Joint Applicant Contact Phone Number

12. Joint Applicant Contact Email

Project Budget

13. Total Cost of the Project *

14. Funding Request *

15. Local Contribution (if applicable)

Please note a resolution or letter committing local funds signed by the Chief Elected Official is required.

16. Can the Jurisdiction undertake a smaller project or phase the project if awarded less funding than requested? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Project Proposal

17. Project Title *

Please provide a short/concise title for the project. This is how it will be commonly referred to.

18. Project Scope *

Please provide a description of the project. This should include an explanation of the project with and overview of the proposed methodology, the project need, study area, and proposed schedule assuming a July 2, 2025 approval and the procurement process takes 3 to 4 months.

19. Project Deliverable *

Please describe the completed project to be submitted to Tri-County.

20. Does the Jurisdiction commit to completing the project by December 31, 2026? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Regional Significance

21. Please explain how your project plans for corridor or system-level impacts. *

Things to consider: (1) does the planning project review connections between communities or require regional cooperation, (2) affect a major corridor, freight route, or transit line, (3) consider first and last mile transportation needs with possible innovative solutions, (4) focus on chokepoints, bottlenecks, or critical infrastructure, and (5) does it pilot a concept that could be scaled regionally.

22. Please explain how your project plans for multimodal connectivity. *

Things to consider: (1) does the planning project identify and address multimodal needs, (2) review connections between other transportation modes, such as bike/ped, public transit, air, barge, rail, and truck routes, and (3) support a regional network or fill a major gap in connectivity.

23. Please explain how your project impacts housing, employment, and economy. *

Things to consider: (1) does the planning project server large population/housing district, (2) improve access to key employment centers, business districts, freight hubs, or industrial areas, (3) increase access to commercial districts, and (4) unlock future development (e.g., transit-oriented development (TOD), complete streets, smart cities, new industries/hubs).

24. Please explain how your project plans for public access improvements. *

Things to consider: (1) does the planning project enhance access to public services like healthcare, education, libraries, and other public facilities, (2) increase public access to parks, trails, riverfronts, or community destinations, and (3) review ADA compliance requirements.

IIJA & Planning Document Goals

25. Explain how this project meets the goals of the IIJA. *

Use this [document for reviewing the IIJA goals](#).

26. Explain how this project meets the goals of the LRTP 2050. *

Use this [document for reviewing the LRTP 2050 Vision and Goals](#).

27. Does your project meet the goals of any of the following MPO plans: BikeConnect *
HOI, Human Service Transportation Plan Region 5 Update, Congestion
Management Process Update?

Use this [document for reviewing other MPO plans goals](#).

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

28. Explain how this project meets the goals of the selected plans above.

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