



MEMORANDUM

TO: MPO Member Jurisdictions
FROM: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Staff
SUBJECT: Call for Projects – FY 2027 Special Transportation Studies
DATE May 15, 2026

Action needed:

No action is needed, discussion item only.

Background:

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (Tri-County or TCRPC) has programmed approximately \$130,000 for Fiscal Year 2027 Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds for local jurisdictions to undertake special transportation planning projects. Jurisdictions may apply for all or part of the \$130,000 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 TCRPC staff-led or consultant-led projects; Consultant-led project will be procured using TCRPC's procurement policy 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, 2027, 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
May 15, 2026	Call for Projects released
June 15, 2026	Project applications due to staff by 3:30 pm
June 17, 2026	Project Review Subcommittee established by Technical
July 8, 2026	Project Review Subcommittee scores project(s) and makes recommendation
July 15, 2026	Technical Committee reviews project(s) recommendation and makes motion for Commission approval
August 5, 2026	Commission approves project(s)

Application Procedure

Applications must include the application questionnaire (Microsoft Form) and any supporting documents (i.e., Resolution committing local contribution, letters of support, etc.). Applications are due Monday, June 15, 2026, by 3:30 p.m. and submitted electronically via the Microsoft Form (available on our website) 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.