



Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Proposed Approach to Programming Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternatives Program Funding

Recommendation: Endorsement of the Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternatives Project Programming Committee to proceed with a “Call for Applications” and the drafting of Project Priorities for Officials Committee Review.

Transportation Alternatives Project Programming

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) created a new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) by consolidating the Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails programs and other discretionary programs, wrapping them into a single funding source. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with populations over 200,000 were given the responsibility to program part of each state’s apportionment under TAP. Projects that were eligible for funding under those former programs are generally eligible under TAP, although MPOs have the ability to decide on a narrower list of eligibilities. According to regulations, MPOs must use a competitive process and select projects in consultation with the State from proposed projects submitted by eligible entities. MAP-21 authorized transportation funding for only two years. The funding for the Lincoln planning area (Lancaster County) is \$386,734 for each of the two programable years of FY 20 13 and 2014 and is to be projected to remain at this level for the near term and for programming.

Due to the high number of projects programmed prior to the adoption of MAP-21, the Lincoln MPO worked with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) to roll these over into the TIP by applying the MPO TAP allocation with some of the State allocation for FY 2013 thru FY 2016. New TAP projects will need to be identified for programming in FY 2017 and 2018 and included in the FY 2015-18 TIP in the spring.

Project development will need to follow federal guidelines and eligibility criteria to qualify for federal TAP funds. This will require developing an application process and posting this on the MPO web page. The Lincoln MPO *Transportation Alternatives Program Committee*, as a subcommittee of the MPO Technical Committee, will develop and administer the application process and prioritize each proposed project for possible programming. Each project selected will need to support the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and place emphasis on project readiness. Sponsors will need to show they can have a project that can be cleared for construction within the timeframe submitted.

Criteria

The TAP Committee will apply criteria that gathers objective data about the prospective projects to determine eligibility and screen them based upon project readiness. Additional information will determine how projects relate to the existing transportation planning priorities. This evaluation will be derived from the seven goals in the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Long Range Transportation Goals

- Support economic vitality of the community
- Maintain the existing transportation system to maximize the value of these assets
- Provide a safe and secure transportation system
- Improve the efficiency, performance and connectivity of a balanced transportation system
- Promote consistency between land use and transportation plans to enhance mobility and accessibility
- Protect and enhance environmental sustainability, provide opportunities for active lifestyles, and conserve natural resources
- Maximize the cost effectiveness of transportation

Selection

The project screening process will be performed by staff. This will ensure that the projects are eligible for federal funds and determine if funding is available. The scoring process will be performed by the TAP Committee. The TAP Committee will recommend a “program of projects” to the Technical Committee which can be used as a guide for project selection. The Technical Committee recommendation will be forwarded to the Officials Committee for action and adoption. The Officials Committee has the responsibility of making the final decision in project selection.

The proposal is to have a “program of projects” for consideration to the MPO Technical Committee and Officials Committee at their February, 2014 meetings. This will allow selected projects to be included in the proposed FY 2015-18 TIP that is developed in the spring.

Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternatives Programming Committee

The *Lincoln MPO Management Plan* identifies advisory subcommittees to assist in the transportation planning process and in developing required programs and documents.

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Mike Brienzo	Planning Department
David Pesnichak	Planning Department
David Cary	Planning Department
Randy Hoskins	Public Works: Engineering Services
Thomas Shafer	Public Works: Engineering Services
Terry Genrich	Lincoln Parks & Recreation Dept.
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Doug Pillard	Lancaster County Engineering
Ari Kennedy	Lower Platte South NRD