SRTS Program Endorsement Request

TAC Meeting
December 14, 2021
Overview

• The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program is a federal program to improve safety and increase physical activity among students by promoting biking and walking to school

• SRTS is part of the TA Set-Aside program

• Historically, SRTS non-infrastructure programs were funded separately

• This year, SRTS programs we required to submit through the TA process
Overview

- Richmond Public Schools works with Fit 4 Kids for their SRTS program
- The SRTS coordinator submitted an application but did not request MPO endorsement
- TPO staff has worked with VDOT to allow the application to proceed with a resolution of endorsement to be submitted by January
TAC Requested Action

Review and recommendation on the following resolution:

Whereas, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Guidance requires all Transportation Alternatives applications located within the boundaries of a Metropolitan Planning Organization to obtain a resolution of endorsement from the appropriate MPO; and

Whereas, this is the first round where Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) non-infrastructure programs were required to submit through the TA Set-Aside process; and

Whereas, the Richmond SRTS program has submitted an application for funding which was not included in the project list endorsed by the RRTPO; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) endorses the Richmond Safe Routes to Schools Program as an application for the FY23 – FY24 Transportation Set-Aside process.
City of Richmond
Funding Request –
UPC 15958

TAC Meeting
December 14, 2021
Project Background

• Commerce Road Improvements (UPC 15958) is a project with a long history dating back to the mid-90s

• Current allocations started in FY15 cycle; award $2.05M out of $14.5M total cost

• The project has experienced significant delay and cost increases; nearly $3.5M more allocated since as cost increased

• Recently advertised; project estimate has increased significantly from $21.76M to $28.7M
Request Details

**UPC:** 15958

**Name:** Commerce Road Improvements

**SYIP Allocations:**
- $21,760,000
- RSTP (25.2%), Urban (30.8%), Local (43.9%)

**Deficit:** $6,506,235 (per Richmond funding analysis)

**Request:** $3,500,000 (RSTP)
Framework Guidance

• Sponsors able to request additional funding but should use local or other outside funds first

• Requests greater than 10% of current allocations require TAC recommendation and policy board approval ($3.5M request = 63.7% increase)

• TAC can recommend combination of:
  • Scale back the project
  • Use local or other non-RRTPPO funds (partial or full)
  • Use STBG balance entry funds (partial or full)
Available Funding

- Staff updated balance entry analysis; sufficient funds available
- Use of FY23 and later funds will impact ability to fund other existing and new projects this round

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<th>Previous</th>
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Considerations

• Long history – need to advance to CN
• TPO has already taken on increased share of cost:
  • Project cost: $14.5M -> $28.7M
  • RSTP Funds: $2.05M -> $5.493M
• With new request, TPO funds would be 4.4x original commitment ($2.05M -> $8.993M); TPO would cover over 50% of the deficit
• $11.3M in other existing STBG project requests for this round
Staff Recommendation

• Staff recommends a **partial award of $1.642M**, matching the RSTP funds for deficit to the TPO share of latest SYIP allocations

• Richmond would need to use local or other funds for the difference ($1.858M)

• Richmond would also need to use local or other funds for the $3M not requested from the TPO
TAC Requested Action

*Review and recommendation on the following resolution:*

**Resolved,** that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) approves the transfer of $1,014,323 in previous Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds from the balance entry (UPC 70721) to the Commerce Road Improvements project (UPC 15958).

**Resolved,** that the RRTPO approves the transfer of $627,677 in FY23 STBG funds from the balance entry (UPC 70721) to the Commerce Road Improvements project (UPC 15958).