

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

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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

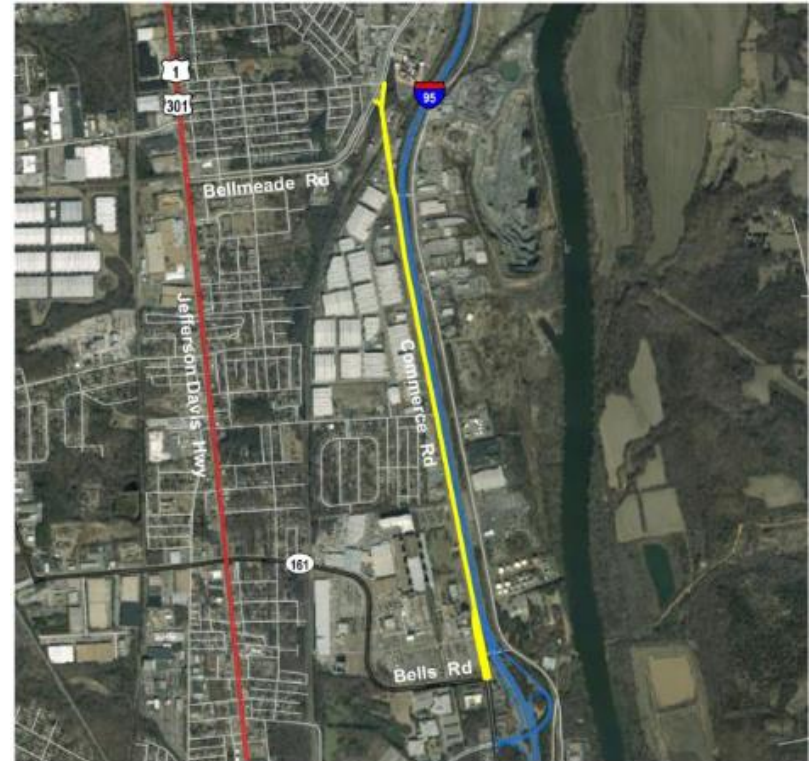
Name: Commerce Road Improvements

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-RRTPO 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

	Previous	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Actual	\$1,014,325	\$4,251,611	\$6,061,939	\$5,296,173	\$5,265,974	\$5,010,657
Target	\$0	\$1,941,713	\$1,974,722	\$2,008,292	\$4,084,866	\$6,231,463
Surplus	\$1,014,325	\$2,309,898	\$4,087,217	\$3,287,881	\$1,181,108	(\$1,220,806)

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).