



September 5, 2023

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM 5 B

CRTPA TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE

TYPE OF ITEM: Presentation/Discussion/Action

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

This item seeks the appointment of three (3) members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to serve on the CRTPA's Transportation Alternatives (TA) Subcommittee associated with the upcoming solicitation of TA applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 – FY 2030 funding cycle.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Option 1: Approve three (3) members of the Technical Advisory Committee to serve on the CRTPA's TA Subcommittee.

BACKGROUND

The CRTPA TAP was established in 2013 subsequent to the creation of the Transportation Alternatives Program associated with the July 6, 2012 signing of P.L. 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) by President Obama. For those Metropolitan Planning Organizations with a population greater than 200,000 (which includes the CRTPA), the agency must manage the competitive grant process, necessitating the creation of the CRTPA TAP.

Through the CRTPA TA Program, the agency coordinates the solicitation and ranking of TA projects within the four-county capital region prior to provision to the FDOT for funding consideration. The process, described in more detail below, includes the solicitation of *new* applications biennially (every two (2) years), consistent with Board direction. The most recent solicitation of new applications occurred in late 2021 and, as a result, the CRTPA is scheduled to formally initiate the solicitation of new applications this year in December 2023.

Guiding the CRTPA TA Program is the CRTPA TA Subcommittee. The subcommittee, consisting of members from both of the CRTPA committees, reviews and recommends a ranking of the TA applications to the CRTPA Board. Ultimately, the projects are placed in recommended priority order on the agency's TA Project Priority List for CRTPA Board consideration and adoption.

LATEST INFORMATION

Given the scheduled initiation of TA application solicitation in late 2023, it is now time to reconstitute the CRTPA TA Subcommittee. As in years past, the subcommittee will review and recommend the scoring criteria to be used in the application review process, evaluate received applications using adopted criteria, and, ultimately, recommend a ranking of projects to the CRTPA Board.

With the 2021 passage of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#) changes to the TA Program were made to the TA Program. Such changes include increased funding as the [BIL](#) nearly doubled funding for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside (from \$850 million annually for fiscal years 2018 through 2020 to an average annual amount of \$1.44 billion from 2022 through 2026).

Within the CRTPA region this increase amounts to an approximate annual average of \$660,000 of TA funds over the next five years pursuant to funding estimates provided by FDOT District 3.

Additional changes to the TA Program associated with the BIL include new language and guidance related to equity. Specifically, states are required to define “high need” communities and prioritize such communities in project selection. Furthermore, states are now authorized to use up to 5% of their TA funds for “administrative and technical assistance,” making it easier for underserved and underrepresented communities to access the program.

Funds associated with the TA Program can be used for a variety of projects including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, Safe Routes to School projects, road safety assessments, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity.

CRTPA TAP Process

The CRTPA TA Program is guided by the CRTPA TA Subcommittee. The subcommittee, comprised of 6 members (3 from the CRTPA’s Citizen’s Multimodal Advisory Committee (CMAC) and 3 from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)), review and recommend a ranking of the TA applications to the CRTPA Board. Ultimately, the projects are placed in recommended priority order on the agency’s TA Project Priority List for CRTPA consideration and adoption prior to being provided to the FDOT.

The review and ranking of eligible applications by the subcommittee is based upon the adopted CRTPA’s TAP Evaluation Criteria (most recently approved at the January 21, 2020 CRTPA meeting), as provided on the following page:

ADOPTED CRITERIA

CRTPA TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION CRITERIA*		MAXIMUM POINTS
1	SAFETY (Describe how the project will improve public safety for all transportation users)	20
2	CONNECTIVITY (Describe how the project facilitates or improves multimodal linkages)	20
3	ACCESSIBILITY (Describe how the project contributes to enhanced mobility options for transp. disadvantaged)	20
4	PUBLIC BENEFIT (Describe how the project improves the public travel experience and travel options)	20
5	PROJECT CONSTRUCTABILITY (Describe the project's constructibility related to environmental considerations, etc.)	10
6	REGIONAL PLAN (Describe how the project relates to the adopted plans of the region)	5
7	COMMUNITY SUPPORT	5
Maximum Total Points		100

Due to changes to the TA Program associated with the recent BIL, a reexamination of the CRTPA's adopted review criteria to ensure criteria consistency with these new changes will be required.

NEXT STEPS

The following provides the general timeline associated with the CRTPA's 2023/2024 TA Solicitation Cycle:

- October 2023 TA Subcommittee meets to review & recommend changes to review criteria (anticipated 2 meetings)
- November 2023 Recommended TA Criteria provided to CRTPA Board & Committees for approval
- December 2023 CRTPA initiates call for new TA applications for FY 2026 – FY 2030
- December 2023 TA Informational Public Meeting
- Feb/Mar 2023* TA applications DUE
- Feb/Mar 2023 TA applicant interviews with TA Subcommittee
- March 2023 TA Subcommittee application ranking meeting
- April 2023 CRTPA adopts FY 2026 – FY 2030 TA Priority Project List

*NOTE: Awaiting FDOT TA schedule