

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee meeting date: November 5, 2025

Date: October 28, 2025

Action Transmittal: 2025-32

2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Funding Application Categories

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: TAC Funding & Programming Committee
Prepared by: Steve Peterson, Senior Manager, 651-602-1819
Joe Widing, Senior Planner, 651-602-1822
Joe Barbeau, Planning Analyst, 625-602-1705

Requested action

Recommend the funding categories to be used for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation.

Recommended motion

Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the funding categories to be used for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation:

1. Local Bike Facilities
2. Local Pedestrian Facilities
3. Active Transportation Planning

Background and purpose

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature approved a regional sales tax for the seven-county Twin Cities region to support various transportation improvements. A portion of this funding is dedicated to active transportation (AT) projects with projects being selected by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). The grants are managed by the Metropolitan Council. Following selection of projects from the 2024 Regional Solicitation, Council staff worked closely with applicants for 10 projects as part of a AT pilot program.

Over nearly the past two years, the Active Transportation Working Group discussed how to clearly define and differentiate the active transportation sales tax funds and federal funds for active transportation related projects. The Work Group recommended splitting these funds by project category by funding regional bicycle projects with federal funds while funding pedestrian projects and local bicycle projects with non-federal Active Transportation funds. During the process, participants suggested creating and funding active transportation planning efforts to aid communities to help meet the seven state legislative requirements once they eventually applied for a capital project.

TAB is being asked to include these categories as part of a 2026 Active Transportation package to be released for public comment. The recommended AT funding categories are:

1. Local Bike Facilities
2. Local Pedestrian Facilities
3. Active Transportation Planning

Relationship to regional policy

The Minnesota Legislature dedicated a portion of the regional sales tax to active transportation projects. Per the legislation, the selection process must include criteria and prioritization of projects based on the following seven requirements:

1. the project's inclusion in a municipal or regional nonmotorized transportation system plan;
2. the extent to which policies or practices of the political subdivision encourage and promote complete streets planning, design, and construction;
3. the extent to which the project supports connections between communities and to key destinations within a community;
4. identified barriers or deficiencies in the nonmotorized transportation system;
5. identified safety or health benefits;
6. geographic equity in project benefits, with an emphasis on communities that are historically and currently underrepresented in local or regional planning; and
7. the ability of a grantee to maintain the active transportation infrastructure following project completion.

Staff analysis

These categories follow the recommendations of the Active Transportation Working Group. The three categories may be revisited for future funding cycles.

Committee comments and action

At its October 16, 2025, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee recommended that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the funding categories to be used for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation:

1. Local Bike Facilities
2. Local Pedestrian Facilities
3. Active Transportation Planning

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed or Scheduled
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review and recommend	October 16, 2025
Technical Advisory Committee	Review and recommend	<i>November 5, 2025</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and approve	<i>November 19, 2025</i>

