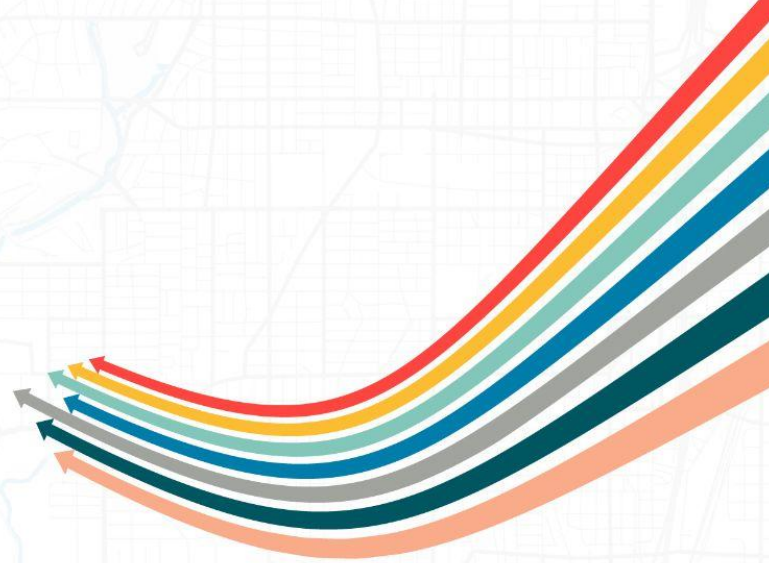


Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program Project Selection



Guidance Document for Mini-Grant (STBG-MAPA) Funding
FY2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Approved:

TTAC: 10/22/2021

Board: 10/28/2021

Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program Overview

Program Goals

The Heartland 2050 Mini-Grant Program aims to:

1. Support local outreach and engagement efforts that promote broader public and stakeholder involvement.
2. Promote alternative or multi-model travel choices through collaborative planning strategies.
3. Encourage coordination of land use plans with existing or planned regional transportation infrastructure.
4. Promote plans and projects that support and implement Heartland 2050 vision scenario, Heartland
5. Connections Regional Transit Vision and Bicycle-Pedestrian Plans, and MAPA 2050 Long Range Transportation
6. Plan.
7. Promote collaboration.
8. Improve access to jobs and education.

Project Eligibility

Assistance is available to municipalities, counties, townships, and multi-jurisdictional groups of local governments within the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Heartland 2050 encourages applications from two or more jurisdictions working together, within county boundaries. Non-profits or other organizations may serve as a partner agency, but a local government must be the project sponsor.

Eligible projects must include a strong emphasis on transportation. Applications could include but are not limited to:

- New and/or revised land use strategies
- Development of transit oriented local “visions” or plans
- Multi-jurisdictional coordination and planning with regard to any of the following: roads and highways, freight and logistics, biking, and walking, and local and regional transit
- Continuity of local streets in study area
- Public and stakeholder participation
- Site assessments to determine feasibility of transit oriented development projects
- Integration of walking, biking, traffic calming, and transit facilities into all areas of the region
- Expansion of multi-modal connections between town centers, employment centers and areas of concentrated poverty
- Transportation planning for economic development, public and private partnerships, education, and/or
- workforce development activities



Project applicants are required to provide a minimum 20% match. However, a greater percentage of local funding will only enhance the competitiveness of an application.

Application & Award Process

Interested parties should submit an application from the project sponsor including applicant contact information, project description, type of assistance requested, estimated project cost, and local match. Interested parties should also include supplementary materials as appropriate to help describe the project. Applications will be reviewed by a joint committee of MAPA Project Selection Committee and Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) members. The recommendations of this committee will be reviewed and recommended by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and RPAC to the MAPA Policy Board for final approval and incorporation into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Applicants will be provided with program selection and evaluation criteria in the application form.

If your project is selected for funding MAPA will work with you to ensure that all the requirements of the federal funding are met. When a community is notified of its award it will need to:

- Execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MAPA to facilitate the transfer of matching funding for this project
- Work with MAPA staff to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to procure any professional services needed

MAPA will procure the professional services needed to complete the project, and will hold the contract with the firm selected through the competitive process. In general, the procurement of professional services can begin prior to the target federal fiscal year (indicated in the title of this application), as early as July 1, with funding available after the fiscal year begins on October 1. See the program timeline section for more details.

FY2023 Program Timeline

October 29, 2021: Program announcement and call for proposals

January 7, 2022: Applications due

February 1 - March 5, 2022: Public comment period

March 26, 2022: Notification of awards via email

July 1, 2022: MAPA and award recipients can begin working on procurement, but no expenses can be federalized yet

October 1, 2022: Funding becomes available, projects able to commence if ready



Contact Information & Resources

Questions and requests for additional information may be directed to:

Karna Loewenstein, Communications and Outreach Manager 402-444-6866 ext 3225,
kloewenstein@mapacog.org

Court Barber, Transportation Planner 402-444-6866 ext. 3219, cbarber@mapacog.org

Please review the following documents to assist with the development of your application:

Heartland 2050 Vision: <https://heartland2050.org/resource/heartland-2050-vision/>

Heartland 2050 Action Plan: <https://heartland2050.org/resource/action-plan-2020/>

Close the Gap Plan: <https://heartland2050.org/close-the-gap/>

MAPA Bike and Pedestrian Plan:
<http://mapacog.org/reports/regional-bicycle-and-pedestrian-plan/>

