

## 2030 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Instructions Document

### Instructions

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Government (Metro COG) is soliciting projects for use of its direct suballocation of Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funds for federal fiscal years (FFY)2030.

**Table 1:** Estimated Funding Amounts Available by Year Included in the Solicitation

| State        | Fiscal Year 2030 |
|--------------|------------------|
| North Dakota | \$890,000        |
| Minnesota    | \$450,000        |

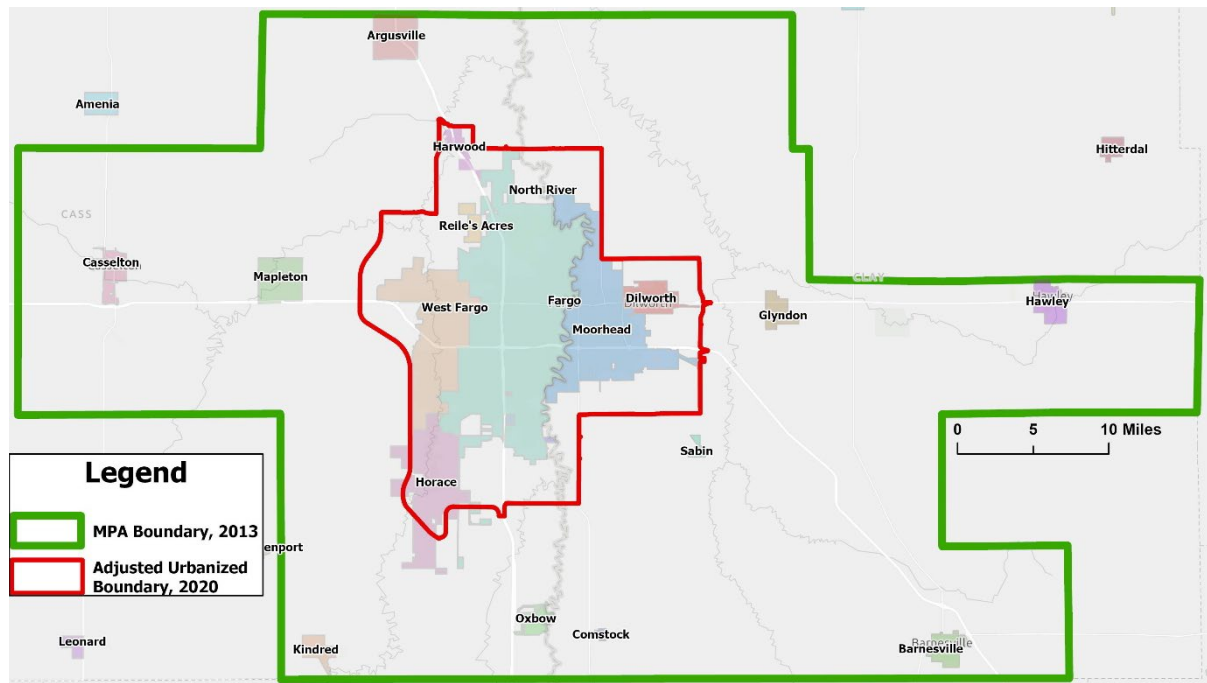
If an application exceeds \$500,000 in requested TA funds, applicants are encouraged to phase their project whenever possible. This would allow more flexibility in allocating funds and alleviate the burden of local matching funds should multiple high-cost projects be selected. TA funding requires at a minimum 20 percent of the project to be funded with local matching funds.

Applications must be received by Metro COG by **12:00 PM on December 26, 2025**. To apply for funding, please submit a project application to Adam Altenburg at [altenburg@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:altenburg@fmmetrocog.org).

### Process

After project applications are submitted to Metro COG, staff will review each application. This review will take into account eligibility, ability to fund, need, conformance with plans, and priority in the MTP. Staff may complete site visits for all appropriate applications and will complete a thorough evaluation of each project. The Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee will then score the received TA projects using the scoring matrix which has been iteratively developed by the Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee. This scoring as well as Metro COG's staff's evaluation will be presented to Metro COG's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The TTC will provide a technical evaluation of all of the submitted projects for Metro COG's Policy Board. The Policy Board will then determine which projects are funded and how much funding will be allotted to each project in each of the fiscal years during which funding is available.

It is important to note that costs incurred prior to FHWA project approval are not eligible for reimbursement. TA funds eligible for reimbursement include project construction costs. Items not eligible for funding are preliminary and construction engineering, environmental impact mitigation, right-of-way acquisition, utilities, and construction items determined to be not eligible for federal aid.



**Figure 1:** Metro COG's Urbanized Area (UZA) and Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)

## **Eligible Projects**

Projects eligible for TA funding must be within the Metro COG Urbanized Area Boundary (UZA), be consistent with 2050 FM Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and meet general eligibility requirements for use of federal aid dollars under Title 23 of the US Code 133 Transportation Alternatives program. Eligible Transportation Alternatives projects include the following:

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects:
  - Construction of on-street and off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - Construction of Safe Routes to School projects
  - Construction of projects for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities
  - Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation uses
  - Traffic calming and speed reduction improvements
  - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
  - Secure bicycle parking facilities
  - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
  - Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Scenic and Environmental Projects:
  - Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way
  - Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project
  - Streetscape improvements and corridor landscaping
  - Establishing living snow fences
  - Control and removal of outdoor advertising

- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- Historic Projects:
  - Historic preservation and rehabilitation of operating historic transportation facilities

### **Eligible Projects Applicants**

- City and county governments
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource and public land agencies
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal governments
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails

### **Nonprofit Organizations**

A nonprofit organization must partner with an eligible project applicant. The eligible project applicant would submit the application and be responsible for the project if it is awarded funds.

### **Eligible Projects Sponsors**

Applications must be submitted to Metro COG through one of the following entities:

- Cities
- Board of County Commissioners
- Tribal Governments
- Transit Agencies
- Federal and State Agencies

Note: Unlike past TA solicitations, a city under 5,000 no longer is required to partner with their respective Board of County Commissioners.

All other eligible applicants including school districts and park districts need to partner with their respective city or county.

### **Schedule**

|                   |                                                                                             |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 26, 2025 | Application due date.<br>Metro COG staff begin reviewing projects.                          |
| January, 2026     | Bike/Ped Committee scores projects                                                          |
| February 12, 2026 | The Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) provides a technical analysis of the projects. |
| February 19, 2026 | Policy Board reviews projects and awards funding.                                           |

## **Questions**

If you have any questions about the TA and/or the solicitation, or specific local questions about prospective projects, please contact Adam Altenburg at (701)532-5105 or [altenburg@fmmetrocog.org](mailto:altenburg@fmmetrocog.org). Metro COG will consult with MnDOT or NDDOT for questions we are unable to answer regarding eligibility.