

## **AGENDA ITEM #9: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM: STATUS REPORT**

### **SUBJECT:**

The application deadline for the Transportation Alternatives program has been extended to April 5, 2013.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The new Transportation Alternatives (TA) program created by MAP-21 incorporates several programs that were included in SAFETEA-LU, including many of the activities that were included in the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program under SAFETEA-LU. There are, however, some types of projects that were eligible under the TE program that are not eligible under the TA program. In addition, there are some changes in how projects will be selected and funded.

Of particular note is that the TA program requires that 50% of the program funds received by the state be sub-allocated to areas based on population, while the other 50% may be obligated to any area of the state. Transportation Management Areas (MPOs having an urban population over 200,000) have the authority to select and award funding from their sub-allocations to projects carried out within their urbanized boundaries through a competitive selection process.

The VDOT Local Assistance Division (LAD) coordinates the TA program and has made recommendations on how project selection for the program should be handled for the first year. In particular, LAD has recommended that:

- Only existing projects be considered for TA funding during the first year (FY 2014).
- There be a consistent application form, scoring criteria, and selection process.
- VDOT handles the application solicitation and oversight of the scoring (with representatives from the MPOs on the Scoring Committee). MPOs will be provided with the scored applications for their areas and will have complete latitude on project selection in the TMA.

This information was presented to the TTAC by Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl, VDOT Local Assistance Division Director, during the November 2012 TTAC meeting. During that meeting, HRTPO staff recommended proceeding with the VDOT recommendations for the first year. The TTAC approved the HRTPO staff recommendation.

LAD sent out the call for applications on December 3, 2012 with an application deadline of February 1, 2013. Only one application was received from HRTPO localities by the deadline. LAD polled Hampton Roads localities and learned there were two localities that had a need and wanted to apply, but had been unable to make the deadline. LAD discussed this situation with HRTPO staff and it was agreed that the application deadline would be extended to April 5, 2013. LAD sent an email notice to Hampton Roads localities and VDOT contacts regarding the extension on February 20, 2013.

You may review the FHWA interim guidance on the TA program at:  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm).

Mr. Mike Kimbrel, Principal Transportation Engineer, will brief TTAC on this item.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

HRTPO localities are encouraged to submit applications to VDOT LAD by April 5, 2013.