

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

2050 TPP Goal: Our Region is Dynamic and Resilient

2050 TPP Objectives or Policies:

- People have better travel options beyond driving alone to meet their daily needs, with a focus on improving travel times, reliability, directness, and affordability.
- People do not die or face life-changing injuries when using any form of transportation.
- People can increase physical activity with more opportunities to walk, roll, or bike.

Category Definition: The Active Transportation Planning application category intends to help communities establish plans to identify and prioritize future investments in active transportation and ensure eligibility for future active transportation infrastructure funding.

Scoring

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Proposed Planning Effort	50
Measure A – Project identification (including connection to key destinations; gaps, barriers, or deficiencies addressed)	40
Measure B – Complete streets planning, design, and construction	10
2. Safety	30
Measure A – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles	30
3. Community Considerations	20
Measure A – Community Considerations	
Total	100

Selected projects in this category will be funded through the Regional Active Transportation Sales Tax, and as such, project selection must be based on:

1. Project's inclusion in a municipal or regional nonmotorized transportation system plan (see qualifying requirements);
2. Extent to which policies or practices of the political subdivision encourage and promote complete streets planning, design, and construction (see criterion 1B);
3. Extent to which the project supports connections between communities and to key destinations within a community (see criterion 1A);
4. Identified barriers or deficiencies in the nonmotorized transportation system (see criterion 1A);
5. Identified safety or health benefits (see criterion 2);
6. Geographic equity in project benefits, with an emphasis on communities that are historically and currently underrepresented in local or regional planning (see criterion 3; project selection will also consider geographic equity); and
7. Ability of a grantee to maintain the active transportation infrastructure following project completion (see qualifying requirements).

The qualifying and scoring criteria for this category are designed to identify planning projects that will address these requirements.

Examples of Eligible Projects

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and is intended only to provide examples. For questions regarding project eligibility, see the qualifying requirements for this application category and contact the Metropolitan Council.

- Active transportation plans
- Pedestrian system plans
- Bicycle system plans
- Safe Routes to School plans
- Comprehensive planning support
- Other systems-level plans related to active transportation

Application Criteria and Measures

1. Proposed Planning Effort

This criterion measures the project's ability to help the community fulfill the eligibility requirements for infrastructure funds by developing and adopting a nonmotorized plan that includes identified future infrastructure projects.

A. Project Identification (including connection to key destinations; gaps, barriers, or deficiencies addressed)

Please provide a written response (600 words or less) that details the desired work plan and approach for the proposed planning effort.

In your response, please provide the following information:

- Identify the proposed study area, the agency that will approve or adopt the plan, how the applicant will utilize the plan once adopted;
- How the proposed plan will identify future active transportation projects for implementation;
- How the proposed plan will support connections between communities and to key destinations within the community;
- How the proposed plan will identify and address barriers or deficiencies in the nonmotorized transportation system.

Scoring Guidance

Consider the information and narrative provided by the applicant and rate projects based on the benchmarks provided below. Projects may score at any point along the scale based on their performance against the stated criteria.

- **High:** The highest rated projects in this measure will provide a well thought-out project approach that addresses all the required information. It is clear this project will lead to a final document that will promote a safe, accessible active transportation system for users of all ages and abilities.
- **Medium-High**
- **Medium:** Mid-range projects in this measure may provide fewer details or speak in more generalities about the desired outcomes of the project. These responses may address some, but not all, of the required information.
- **Medium-Low**

- **Low:** Low-rated projects will provide few details about the project approach and may not provide all of the required information.
- **Non-responsive/Not relevant:** Projects that do not adequately address any of the required information beyond identifying the study area and agency should receive zero points.

B. Complete Streets Planning, Design, and Construction

One of the goals of the sales tax program is for agencies to promote and support complete streets planning and design. Please provide a written response (400 words or less) outlining how the plan will encourage or promote a complete streets approach to planning, design and construction. In your response, please outline the community's current policy and practices (if applicable), or detail how the plan will aid in the improvement of complete streets practices in the community. Please outline any specific desired outcomes from the planning process that would promote complete streets practices (such as an adopted complete streets policy, design guidelines, etc.).

Scoring Guidance

Consider the information and narrative provided by the applicant and rate projects based on the benchmarks provided below. Projects may score at any point along the scale based on their performance against the stated criteria.

- **High:** The highest rated projects in this measure will provide a clearly thought-out approach to using the planning efforts to promote or improve complete streets practices within the agency.
- **Medium-High**
- **Medium:** Mid-range projects may lack specifics or may provide only general examples of how the agency will incorporate complete streets.
- **Medium-Low**
- **Low:** Projects that provide minimal details should receive a low rating for this measure.
- **Non-responsive/Not relevant:** Projects that do not have a complete streets policy and make no attempt to follow complete streets principles should receive zero points.

2. Safety

This criterion measures the project's ability to promote safety for all users, including how the plan addresses existing risks and makes use of proven safety countermeasures.

A. Safety Approach for People Outside of Vehicles

Please provide a written response (600 words or less) that identifies any existing known safety challenges in the study area impacting people outside of vehicles, and how the project will approach improving those conditions.

If safety conditions are currently unknown, please provide information on how the plan will analyze, identify, and document known safety challenges and seek to identify potential solutions.

Consider the following:

- The agency's current approach to safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, and how the plan may help promote and encourage safety at all levels of planning, design, and construction;
- Safety stakeholders that will be identified, considered and engaged in the planning process (including emergency services, schools, and other community groups);
- How the plan will identify and incorporate potential safety recommendations;

- Related planning efforts that will be incorporated or built upon through this plan (such as a regional or local safety action plan).

Scoring Guidance

Consider the information and narrative provided by the applicant and rate projects based on the benchmarks provided below. Projects may score at any point along the scale based on their performance against the stated criteria.

- **High:** The highest rated projects in this measure will clearly identify an understanding of including safety at all levels of the planning process and define clear steps for ensuring safety is adequately addressed throughout the plan.
- **Medium-High**
- **Medium:** Mid-range projects in this measure may provide an understanding of the importance of safety for people outside of vehicles but not define clear steps the plan will take.
- **Medium-Low**
- **Low:** Projects that provide minimal details should receive a low rating for this measure.
- **Non-responsive/Not relevant:** Projects that do not identify ways the project will assess existing safety risk factors or address safety in project recommendations should receive zero points.

3. Community Considerations

The Community Considerations criterion will seek to award points to projects that demonstrate an understanding of the importance of community-centered planning, and a commitment to advancing community benefits through the planning process.

See the Community Considerations Reference Document for additional background information on the Community Considerations criteria.

A. Community Considerations

Please provide a written response (400 words or less) about how the project will promote community engagement and the distribution of community benefits.

Consider the following:

- **Community Data and Context:** How will the project advance the community's understanding of the specific communities near or adjacent to the project, and how will this inform the planning process?
- **Community Need and Future Engagement:** How will the planning effort incorporate community engagement, and how will the feedback received inform the planning process?
- **Community Benefits:** How will the planning process seek to ensure that project benefits address the identified transportation needs of the communities?

Scoring Guidance

Consider the information and narrative provided by the applicant and rate projects based on the benchmarks provided below. Projects may score at any point along the scale based on their performance against the stated criteria.

- **High:** The highest rated projects in this measure will clearly identify a planning process that utilizes community engagement best practices, supports a strong understanding of the surrounding community and its transportation needs, and a process that will prioritize an equitable distribution of benefits that directly responds to community needs. These projects will

identify approaches and engagement activities that go above and beyond in an effort to lead to equitable planning outcomes.

- **Medium-High**
- **Medium:** Mid-range projects in this measure will identify a planning process that follows general best practices but does not go above and beyond.
- **Medium-Low**
- **Low:** Projects that provide minimal details or generally describe a project approach without providing specifics should receive a low rating for this measure.
- **Non-responsive/Not relevant:** Projects that do not identify ways the project will assess existing safety risk factors or address safety in project recommendations should receive zero points.