

# Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



**Committee meeting date:** November 19, 2025

**Date:** November 7, 2025

## Action Transmittal: 2025-32

### 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation Funding Application Categories

**To:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**From:** Technical Advisory Committee  
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### Requested action

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

### Recommended motion

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

1. Local Bicycle 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 15 projects as part of an 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. There was clear consensus to keep federal funds and the new local source of funds separate to avoid federalizing these 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 selection 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 Bicycle 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 Bicycle Facilities
2. Local Pedestrian Facilities
3. Active Transportation Planning

At its November 5, 2025, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the funding categories to be used for the 2026 Active Transportation Solicitation:

1. Local Bicycle 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 | November 5, 2025            |
| Transportation Advisory Board       | Review and approve   | November 19, 2025           |

