

## Draft 2024-2026 SRTC Call for Projects – Information Sheet

SRTC is releasing a call for projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality program (CMAQ) and STBG Set-Aside Program. SRTC anticipates awarding \$23.3 million in STBG funds, \$10.6 million in CMAQ, \$2.8 million in STBG Set-Aside funds, \$347K in HIP funds and \$2.4 million in HIP-CRRSAA funds under this solicitation.

To apply, please download and fill out the application packet and return by mailing or delivering to SRTC at 421 W. Riverside Ave, Suite 500, Spokane, WA 99201. Please also include an electronic submittal (preferably on a thumb drive or CD) of all application materials.

### **Deadlines:**

- The **Eligibility Worksheet** and **Safe & Complete Streets Checklist** are due by 4:00 pm on Friday, 03/04/2022; these can be submitted via email to [kjones@srtc.org](mailto:kjones@srtc.org).
- The deadline to submit **project application packages** is 4:00pm on Friday, 04/04/2022.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

**STBG** is the most flexible of all FHWA funding programs. Eligible STBG project types include but are not limited to roadway and bridge construction and repair, pedestrian and bicycle projects, transit capital projects, and planning studies.

**STBG Set-Aside**, introduced with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, replaces the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Examples of eligible projects include on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, and safe routes to school projects.

**CMAQ** funding can be expended on projects that reduce carbon monoxide (CO) and/or coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) emissions. The purpose of the CMAQ program is to fund transportation projects that improve air quality in the Spokane region. Eligible CMAQ project types include transit improvements, travel demand management strategies, traffic flow improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

**HIP** provides federal funds for road, bridge, ferry, transit capital, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) capital projects for the elimination of hazards, and the installation of protective devices at railway-highway crossings. HIP funds can also be used for charging infrastructure along alternative fuel corridors.

**HIP-CRRSAA** may be used for activities that are eligible under the STBG funding program in addition to covering revenue losses, supplanting, or replacing funds, personnel salaries, operation, and maintenance. There is no local match required with this funding type.

For a full list of eligible activities please click on the website links below to refer to FHWA's Program Guidance on the STBG, CMAQ, STBG Set-Aside, HIP and HIP-CRRSAA:

- **STBG**
- **CMAQ**
- **STBG Set-Aside**
- **HIP**
- **HIP-CRRSAA**

**Projects require a 13.5% local match of funds for all programs except HIP-CRRSAA.**

All projects must be administered by a certification acceptance (CA) agency. Non-CA agencies can apply for funds but must have a CA agency sponsor the project. The sponsorship must be in place prior to project selection. The CA agencies within Spokane County are: WSDOT, Spokane County, City of Spokane, and City of Spokane Valley.

## FUNDING INFORMATION

### *Funds Available*

The final amount for the call is subject to change, based on actual annual allocations of funds to SRTC. SRTC anticipates awarding the following:

Fund Type	Fund Qualifications	Projected Amount
STBG	Flexible	\$23,300,000
STBG-Set Aside	Transportation Alternatives	\$2,800,000
CMAQ	Congestion Relief	\$10,600,000
HIP	Highway Infrastructure	\$347,000
HIP-CRRSSA	Highway Infrastructure-Flexible	\$2,440,000

### *Minimum Distribution by Area Size*

Federal funds are allocated to SRTC by population and geography, with the largest portion in the urbanized area. These urban funds can be used anywhere inside Spokane County. Additionally, STBG and STBG-Set Aside funds are suballocated which ensures a minimum percentage of funds are awarded to rural and urban small areas (see table below). The SRTC Board is also considering an additional 3.75 % STBG and STBG Set-Aside of funds to ensure small town projects are funded. Small towns can also compete for funds in the rural category.

Area Size	STBG Minimum % of Funds	STBG Set-Aside Minimum % of Funds
Urban Small Areas (between 5,000 and 200,000)	~2%	~1%
Rural Areas < 5,000	~11%	~9%
Small Towns < 5,000	Pending Board Approval	Pending Board Approval

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

A complete application package must include the following:

- Completed Eligibility Worksheet (**due March 4**)
  - Typical Cross Sections (**due March 4**)
  - Vicinity map (**due March 4**)
- Completed Safe & Complete Streets Checklist (**due March 4**)
- 2024-2026 SRTC Call for Projects Application & all attachments (**due April 4**)
- Supplemental Application/Worksheet (Capital Maintenance & CMAQ projects only) (**due April 4**)
- Signed Project Endorsement form (**due April 4**)
- Cost Estimate (**due April 4**)

## PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

### *Evaluation Process*

Volunteers from the SRTC Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), along with SRTC staff, will score projects between 04/25/22 and 05/13/22. The evaluation will be based on the criteria below. Preliminary results from the scoring subcommittee will be reviewed by the full TTC, TAC, and SRTC Board. The TTC and TAC will each recommend a prioritized list of projects for Board approval at their June meetings. SRTC Staff may also make a recommendation, The SRTC Board will decide upon the final project selection in July.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

The evaluation criteria for the 2024-2026 Call for Projects was reviewed and updated by the TIP Working Group and SRTC staff. The base application includes questions representing each of SRTC's six Horizon 2045 Guiding Principles totaling 300 points. There is one supplemental application for capital maintenance projects. There is an eligibility worksheet for CMAQ projects to ensure a project qualifies for CMAQ funding. The supplemental application is worth 100 points, bringing the point total to 400 for those project types (capital maintenance). In addition, the base application asks agencies to rank their top ten projects, which will be given bonus points based on that ranking (10 points for first priority descending down to 1 point for tenth priority). Awarded points will be totaled and divided by the number of total points possible to get an overall percentage.

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Points Allocated</b>
Economic Vitality	50
Cooperation & Leadership	50
Stewardship	50
Systems Operations, Maintenance, and Preservation	50
Safety & Security	50
Quality of Life	50
Capital Maintenance Supplement	100
CMAQ Eligibility Worksheet	Qualified – Y or N

### *SRTC Board of Directors*

The SRTC Board of Directors will award funding based on the overall project score but may distribute funding based on other criteria such as geographic diversity, performance benefits, and/or project type to ensure an appropriate distribution and timely delivery of regional funding.

## CALL FOR PROJECTS SCHEDULE

<b>2021</b>	
11/17 & 11/21	TAC & TTC meetings – Call for Projects Overview
12/09	Board of Directors meeting – Call for Projects overview
12/13 & 12/15	TAC & TTC meetings – Call for Projects update, principles of investment discussion, applications & evaluation criteria update
<b>2022</b>	
11/2021 – 01/2022	Call for Projects Working Group – Develop applications, evaluation criteria, principles of investment discussion
01/14	Board of Directors meeting - Begin discussion of Principles of Investment and off-the-top funding
01/22 & 01/24	TAC & TTC meetings – Call for Projects update, principles of investment discussion, applications & evaluation criteria update
02/10	Board of Directors - Principles of investment, off the top funding
<b>02/11</b>	<b>CALL FOR PROJECTS RELEASED</b>
<b>03/07</b>	<b>Project Eligibility Worksheet and Complete Streets Checklist DUE by 4:00 pm.</b>
<b>04/04</b>	<b>APPLICATION PACKAGES DUE by 4:00 pm.</b>
04/05-04/22	SRTC staff screens projects for completeness, consistency with the MTP and CMP. SRTC staff calculates the air quality benefits for each CMAQ project
04/25 – 05/13	Project scoring
05/23	TAC & TTC meetings - Review preliminary results
06/09	Board of Directors meeting - Review preliminary results
06/22	TAC & TTC meetings - Recommend prioritized lists of STBG, CMAQ STBG Set-Aside, HIP and HIP-CRRSAA projects to fund and contingency lists for Board approval
07/14	Board – Approve STBG, CMAQ, STBG Set-Aside, HIP and HIP-CRRSAA projects to fund and contingency lists.
Aug – Oct	2023-2026 TIP development process which includes a 30-day public comment period on the draft TIP.