



# Community Transportation Program Development

October 18, 2018

Sandy Johnston

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

# Agenda

- Background
- Discussion on Community Transportation Funding Program:
  1. Key Questions
  2. Proposed Eligible Proponents
  3. Proposed Project Types
  4. Evaluation Criteria Structure
  5. Generating the “Universe”
- Next Steps

# Background

- Last update February 15, 2018
- Long-Range Transportation Plan outreach indicates a desire for Community Transportation projects
- Challenges with previous funding programs

# L RTP Project Categories

- Community Transportation
- Park-and-Ride Infrastructure
- Clean Air and Mobility



L RTP intends 4% of target funds for this program; currently programmed at \$2 million in FFYs 2021 and 2023

# Background: Literature Review

## Local Contributors

- **Transportation Management Associations**
  - Seaport TMA
  - MASCO
- **Municipalities**
  - Boston
  - Salem
  - Bedford
- **Individual entities**



# Background: Literature Review

## National Contributors

- Metropolitan Transportation Council (SF Bay Area): LifeLine Transportation Program, Safe Routes to Transit
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (Philadelphia area): Safe Routes to Transit, CMAQ Program
- NYCDOT Safe Routes to Transit
- Smart Growth America



# Background: Literature Review

## New and Emerging Mobility Paradigms

- Public sector beginning to experiment with Transportation Network Company (TNC) partnerships
  - Transit agencies (including paratransit)
  - Municipalities
  - Social service agencies
  - Individual institutions (North Shore Community College)

# Background: MPO Survey

## Questions asked of national MPOs contributing to Community Transportation

- Types of projects funded
- Funding mechanics
- Important evaluation factors
- Eligible grantees
- Follow-up and metrics





# Key Questions

- What value can this MPO program add?
- What gaps can the program fill?
- How can this program facilitate coordination?
- How can the MPO ensure its money is well spent on fiscally sustainable projects?



# Proposed Eligible Project Proponents

## Recommended entities eligible to apply:

- Municipalities
- Transportation Management Associations
- Regional Transit Authorities
- Community organizations or social service agencies
- Other public agencies
- Public-private partnerships



# Proposed Eligible Project Types

- Transit Operations and Improvements
- Parking Management
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
- Education and Wayfinding

# Proposed Eligible Project Type:

## Transit Operations and Improvements

- Shuttle operations
- TNC partnerships
- Human services transportation
- Transit enhancements
- Acquisition or replacement of vehicles
- Technology updates



# Proposed Eligible Project Type:

## Parking Management

- Leasing or arranging for off-site parking spaces near transit stations to supplement existing parking
- Constructing additional parking
- Constructing bicycle parking



# Proposed Eligible Project Type:

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

- Access to transit
  - Improving sidewalks
  - New stairs/ramps
  - New paths
- Americans with Disabilities Act improvements
- Bicycles on transit



# Proposed Eligible Project Type:

## Education and Wayfinding

- Transit options
- New technologies
- Signage
- Pilot or demonstration projects



# Possible Project Considerations

## Overall:

- CMAQ restrictions
- Local match

## Capital:

- Highway design process

## Operating:

- Uncertain or rapidly evolving operating paradigms/technologies (TNCs)



# Project Evaluation

Stage 1: Fatal Flaw Analysis

Stage 2a: General Criteria

Stage 2b: Type-Specific Criteria  
(Capital/Operating)

Look for survey on criteria soon!



# Proposed Project Selection Process (First Funding Round in FFY 2021)

## Sources of projects:

- Needs Assessment outreach
- Study and technical assistance recommendations
- Discussions with other agencies and stakeholders



# Next Steps

## October-December 2018:

- Seek feedback from MPO on criteria
- Incorporate feedback and write memo
- Develop draft Universe

## Spring 2019:

- Evaluate projects
- Present draft project list to MPO for programming



# Evaluation of First Round

- First round of project evaluation and grants: a learning experience
- Evaluate criteria and project types and report to MPO
- Make any changes necessary and finalize program structure



# Generating Proposed Project List (Second Round and Beyond)

## During fall:

- Outreach and project intake process
- Identify candidate projects
- Viable project sponsors complete a full application

# Generating Proposed Project List (Second Round and Beyond)

## During spring:

- Process applications and evaluate projects
- Draft list of projects
- Final list of projects approved by MPO with final Transportation Improvement Program in May or June



# Key Questions Revisited

## What value can this MPO program add?

- Create first- and last-mile connections
- Provide funding in a high-demand field and outside existing paths
- Flexible response to emerging technologies

## What gaps can the program fill?

- RTA border gaps
- Employer-specific needs
- Goldilocks projects



# Key Questions Revisited

## How can this program facilitate coordination?

- Grants to partnering entities
- Generate discussion about partnership
- Safe access to transit

## How can the MPO ensure its money is well spent on fiscally sustainable projects?

- Sponsor capability fatal flaw analysis
- Criteria emphasize viable budgeting



# Requested Actions

- Discussion
- Criteria survey
- Help generate interest in the program