

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Project ID Number	
Category	Transit
FHWA 3C PL Funds	\$60,350
FTA Section 5303 Funds	\$24,650
FFY 2018 Total Budget	\$85,000

Purpose

In order to support a range of improvements that aim to increase use of non-motorized and shared-ride modes of travel, including transit, the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *Charting Progress to 2040*, designates a transportation-investment program—the Community Transportation / Parking / Clean Air and Mobility (CT) program. The purpose of this work is to define and develop the MPO's CT program for inclusion in its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The LRTP envisions approximately two percent of discretionary target funds to be allocated to the CT program, and the MPO has allotted federal dollars to this program in the current TIP. In the draft federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2018–2022 TIP, this program is funded in the amount of \$1 million in FFY 2021 and \$1 million in 2022.

The CT program includes three categories of projects:

- **Community Transportation:** Provides funding to launch locally developed transit or shuttle services that support first-mile/last-mile connections to existing transit services and other destinations by purchasing shuttle buses and/or funding operating costs.
- **Park-and-Ride Infrastructure:** Targets funding to construct additional parking spaces at transit stations that are at capacity, or at other viable locations.
- **Clean Air and Mobility Program:** Funds projects that improve mobility, air quality, and promote shift to transit or non-motorized travel modes. Examples include bike-share projects or shuttle-bus services, and associated infrastructure.

By clearly defining this program and understanding sustainable mobility models that are most promising for implementation, this program will hopefully encourage communities and service operators to develop effective projects.

Approach

Through this study, staff will establish an ongoing process for implementing the CT program over time. This will include a review of best practices at other MPOs for identifying and funding projects in the categories cited above. Based on this review, Boston Region MPO staff will develop a process for determining needs, analyzing demand, and evaluating projects in order to select those that have the most potential to connect communities with transit service, enhance mobility, improve air quality.. Staff will then use this process to select specific projects for funding this program in the FFYs 2019–2023 TIP.

A major focus of the best-practice review will be to research financially sustainable partnership models for first- and last-mile transit shuttles that could be implemented in the Boston Region MPO area. The MPO already has recognized that first- and last-mile shuttle connections are critical for improving mobility. In the past few years, the MPO has studied potential locations, routings, and scheduling of first- and last-mile shuttles as part of the Regional Transit Service Planning Assistance program. However, maintaining these services has proven difficult for a variety of institutional, operational, and financial reasons.

FFY 2018 Anticipated Outcome

This study will establish an ongoing program for identifying and selecting promising project candidates to include in future TIPs under the Community Transportation program. The study will also recommend specific projects for funding in the FFYs 2019–2023 TIP, including possible first- and last-mile transit shuttle service operations, park-and-ride and bicycle parking infrastructure improvements, pedestrian and bicycle mobility improvements, and other sustainable mobility options.