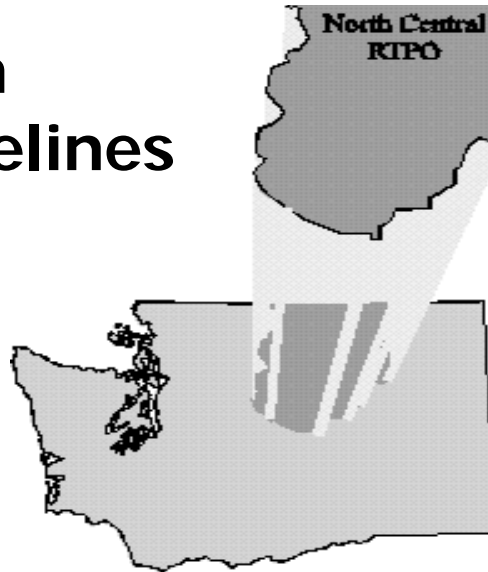


2010 Transportation Enhancements Guidelines

North Central Regional Transportation
Planning Organization

Funding Available: \$814,000



- PROCESS -

2010 Transportation Enhancements proposals will be evaluated, scored and ranked by a selection sub-committee of the NCRTPO Executive Council. Members of the selection committee for 2010 include:

- Andy Lampe, Commissioner, Okanogan County
- Chris Branch, City Planner, City of Oroville
- Doug England, Commissioner, Chelan County
- Jennifer Korfiatis, Director, NCW Economic Development District
- Ken Stanton, Commissioner, Douglas County
- Mike Mackey, Commissioner, Port of Chelan County
- Russell Clark, Mayor, City of Rock Island

The sub-committee will recommend award of Transportation Enhancements funding for consideration and final decision by the NCRTPO Executive Council. Projects will be scored and ranked according to the criteria identified in the application form. Scoring for several of the criteria will be subjective in nature and cannot be anticipated in advance by applicants.

Please be aware that the Enhancements Committee as well as the NCRTPO Executive Council have full discretion to identify final priorities and make funding awards as deemed appropriate.

Please be aware of the following key dates:

- **June 7, 2010 - Call for Projects Announced**
Consultation & application assistance from NCRTPO staff will be available until the submittal deadline, by request.
- **August 6, 2010 - Submittal Deadline**
Applications must be delivered either electronically, by mail or hand delivered to the WVTC office by 4:00 p.m. on August 6, 2010.
- **(TBD) - Selection Committee Presentations**
In either late August or the first week of September the selection committee will convene to review and prioritize applications for funding awards. All applicants will receive advance notice of the committee meeting and are encouraged to attend, make a brief presentation and be available to answer questions.
- **September 8, 2010 - Final Selection & Funding Award**
Final award of funds will occur during the September regular meeting of the NCRTPO Executive Council. The meeting will be held in the City of Chelan. All applicants will receive advance notice of this meeting and are encouraged to attend and be available to answer questions.

- APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS -

Copies of the application form are available for download from the WVTC website at www.wvtc.org or by emailing Kathy Bruno at Kathy@wvtc.org. The application form must be completed by hand (please use ink). Written responses to the ranking criteria questions along with additional maps, letters of support, etc. must be completed separately and attached to the application form.

Completed application packets can be submitted in hardcopy or electronically (electronic applications should be scanned and saved as a single file, preferably in PDF format).

The following items constitute a complete application:

- 2010 Project Application Form
- Ranking Criteria Questionnaire Responses
- Maps & Diagrams (not required)
- Letters of Support (not required)

Questions about the application form and process should be directed to Kathy Bruno at Kathy@wvtc.org or by calling WVTC at (509) 663-9059. Applications must be received by WVTC at either of the following addresses by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 6, 2010:

Electronic Mail: Kathy@wvtc.org

Mail: NCRTPO Transportation Enhancements
c/o Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council
300 South Columbia Street, Third Floor
Wenatchee, WA 98801

- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS -

What are Transportation Enhancements?

The Transportation Enhancement program is a federal grant program that awards funds to a broad array of project types. Specifically, transportation enhancements include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles;
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists;
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites;
- Scenic or historic highway programs including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities;
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification;
- Historic preservation;
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities, including historic railroad facilities and canals;
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors, including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails;
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising;
- Archaeological planning and research;
- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity; and
- Establishment of transportation museums.

How much money is available?

Approximately \$20 million is available statewide for competitive distribution by the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). A total of **\$814,000** is targeted for the NCRTPO region encompassed by Chelan, Douglas & Okanogan counties. The NCRTPO will allocate funding for prioritized projects up to this target amount.

What does the North Central RTPO have to do with the federal Transportation Enhancements program?

As part of its planning responsibilities, North Central Regional Transportation Planning Organization, or NCRTPO, plays an active role in the prioritization and selection of projects for federal funding. The NCRTPO conducts a regional prioritization and selection process and submits its selections to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for administration and distribution of Transportation Enhancement funding.

Is a local match required for the transportation enhancements grants?

No, there is no local match requirement. By state policy, the NCRTPO is not permitted to give additional weight to projects that include local matching funds.

If we are awarded an enhancements grant, how soon do we need to start or compete our project?

Each proposed Enhancement project must be ready to proceed **within 2 years of selection** notification. If a selected project is unable to meet this requirement for any reason, its funding will be rescinded and utilized for future selections.

How do I know if my project idea is eligible for federal funds?

You can get an initial sense of whether you have an eligible project proposal by looking at the list of allowed transportation enhancements activities. However, applicants should review details of their proposal with staff from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for further clarification. It is much better to identify and address eligibility issues during the application development stage than to be disqualified late in the process. *Even if your proposal is selected by the NCRTPO, if it is ineligible under federal guidelines you will not receive transportation enhancements funds.*

Applicants are strongly encouraged to verify project eligibility prior to submitting a proposal to the NCRTPO. Please contact **Paul Mahre** at the WSDOT North Central Region by phone at (509) 667-3090 or by email at mahrep@wsdot.wa.gov for eligibility questions.

How will project proposals be reviewed?

Applications will be reviewed and prioritized by the NCRTPO Regional Enhancement Committee using the Prioritization Criteria. Applicants are encouraged to be available (in person or by phone) to answer questions that may arise during this meeting. You will be notified of the date later. The prioritized list will be forwarded to the NCRTPO Board of Directors for their review and approval at their meeting on September 15, 2010.

When will I know if my project got funded?

Projects at the top of the regional priority list and within the NCRTPO funding target of **\$814,000** will be fairly certain of their funding status after the NCRTPO Executive Committee meeting on September 8, 2010. Funding for any proposal is subject to final approval by WSDOT's Secretary of Transportation.

If my project is selected, will the NCRTPO give me the money to do the work?

No, because Transportation Enhancements grants are a "reimbursement" type of grant. That is, you don't receive any money up front to do the work; instead you are reimbursed for eligible projects costs after you complete the work to the standards required by FHWA and submit your project billing to WSDOT. Grant recipients will work directly with WSDOT on contract agreements and billing procedures. The NCRTPO does not play any role in the billing or reimbursement of project costs.

I still have questions. Where can I get more information?

For more information on the statewide Transportation Enhancement process visit the WSDOT website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Enhance.htm.

For more information on the NCRTPO's regional prioritization process, contact Jeff Wilkens at the Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council (509-663-9059).