



TRAVEL OPTIONS PROGRAM

TOP Expression of Interest (EOI) Information Session





Agenda

- Introductions
 - Meet the DVRPC TOP team
 - In the chat - name, affiliation, why you are here today
- Facts about TOP
- Projects funded in previous TOP rounds
- Applying for a TOP Grant
- Q & A Session



Facts About TOP



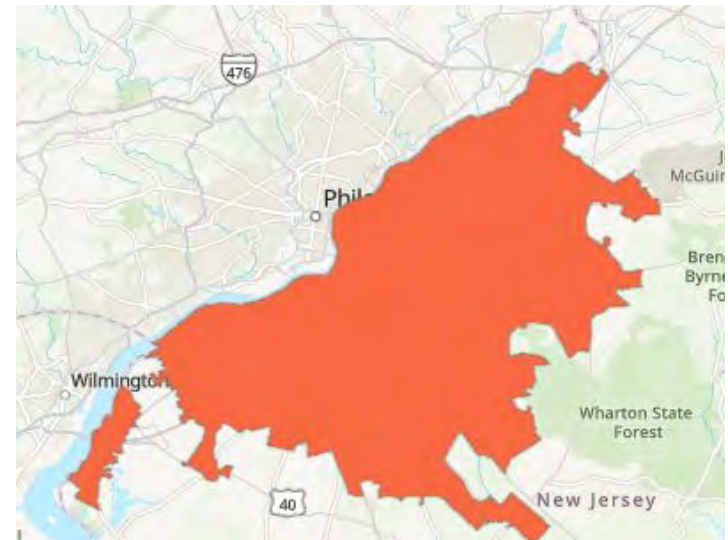
- **TOP funds** creative projects that aim to **reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the region's roadways.**
- TOP funds **planning and implementation projects** that support the goals, outcomes, and strategies established in [The Regional TDM Plan](#).
 - **4 Goals: Reduce Vehicle Trips and Improve Air Quality, Expand Economic Opportunity, Improve Reliability, Expand Freedom of Choice**
- Each project must address a **TDM issue and solution**, with some type of **measurable results.**

What are the funding sources?

- Primarily Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBGP)
- NJ Applicants: NJ Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds outside the Philadelphia Urbanized Area
- No local match requirement

What is the total available funding?

- PA: proposed \$1,835,120
- NJ: proposed \$440,000
- Minimum project cost: \$100,000
- Maximum project cost: \$300,000



Source: NJGIN Open Data

Eligible Applicants

- Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)
- Nonprofits
- Government organizations/agencies
- School districts or schools
- Transit agencies

What are we looking for?

- Innovative TDM strategies
- Pilot projects
- Improvements to transportation safety
- Spend funds within the two-year timeline
- Measurable results on travel behavior and cost effectiveness
- **Address at least one of the four core goals of the Plan and fit into one of five established focus areas**

Submissions must meet at least one goal from DVRPC's *Strategic Plan for Regional TDM Programs*:

- **Reduce Vehicle Trips and Improve Air Quality:** Contribute to air quality conformity for the region and improve congestion by helping reduce total vehicle miles traveled.
- **Expand Economic Opportunity:** Improve access to jobs and economic opportunity, especially for lower-income households, families in poverty, and individuals with disabilities.
- **Improve Reliability:** Make trips by all modes more reliable, especially during peak travel travel times.
- **Expand Freedom of Choice:** Expand access to multiple high-quality and affordable modal options. Projects should focus on expanding multimodal choices, with a limited focus on private vehicle access.

1. Workforce Job Access (non-SOV)

Goal: To solve an existing job access issue or challenge (akin to the former Job Access/Reverse Commute [JARC] program).

Elements we are looking for in an application under this focus area:

- Involvement of potential partners
- Consideration of local and non-traditional partners for input, engagement, and potential funding
- Identification of a specific location where access improvements are needed

2. Education and Outreach

Goal: To encourage a partner or partners in the service area to develop and advance new approaches, policies, and plans or to educate the public or other private stakeholders about travel options.

Elements we are looking for in an application under this focus area:

- Relation to a proposed or new project or program
- A new marketing approach or strategy
- Exploration of how to reach new populations and audiences

3. Quick-Build or Temporary Infrastructure

Goal: To plan and implement temporary infrastructure to test solutions for a TDM problem.

Elements we are looking for in an application under this focus area:

- Explanation of how the project will benefit the community
- Identification of a general location with a plan to determine specific sites
- Demonstration of a commitment from funding partners for installation/material costs
- Outreach to new populations and audiences

4. Concept Development for a New or Existing Transportation Service

Goal: To plan, coordinate, and implement a change to a mobility service that solves a TDM problem.

Elements we are looking for in an application under this focus area:

- Plans for a new multimodal service or a construction project with secured implementation funding from other sources
- Development of new solutions or policies to accommodate bikes on transit or address other rider needs
- Development of new policies or solutions for carpool or bikeshare

5. Operational Solutions

Goal: Implement non-construction operational strategies that address a TDM problem.

Elements we are looking for in an application under this focus area:

- Explanation of how the proposed solution supports alternatives to SOV travel
- Identification of general project location or outlines plans to determine exact locations
- Development of new operational concepts and strategies to improve mobility

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Summary of Previous TOP Rounds



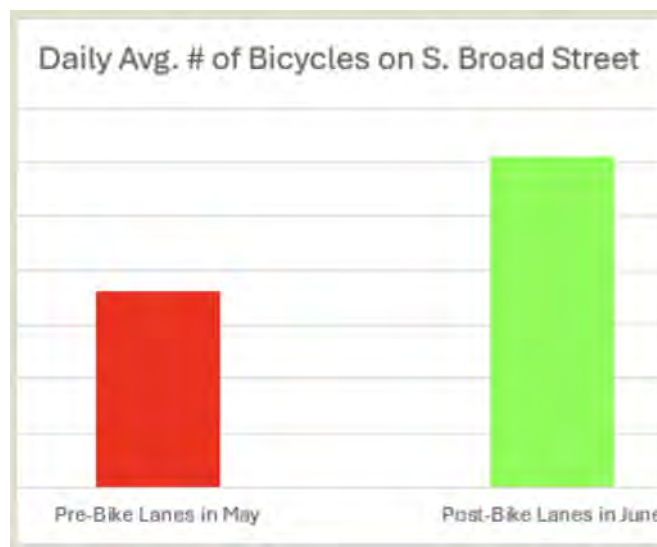
Drive Less, Bike More - Partnership TMA



UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP



Bike North Penn members led group rides to see the new bike lanes, accompanied by UGT Police Dept Bike Patrol.



Data confirmed the average number of bikes traveling per day increased from 7.25 to 12.2. That's an increase of 68%!

Return to PATCO (Voorhees) - CCCTMA



Three traffic calming measures were tested:

- Pedestrian refuge islands
- Mini-roundabouts
- Curb bumpouts



Pedestrian Refuge Island



Curb Bump-Out

Getting to Green - Mural Arts of Phila.



- Guiding residents to the Getting to Green city-wide map and other project resources.
- Events to advertise the project and engage the community.
- Wayfinding signage installed at 12 SEPTA bus stop locations.



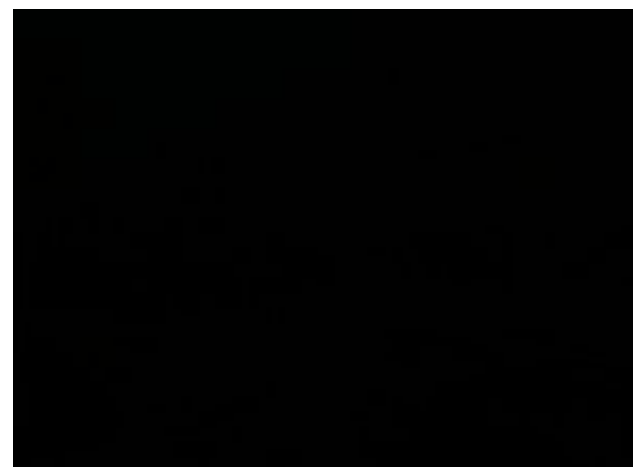
What does success look like for a TOP grant?



- Developing an innovative solution for an existing problem
- Creatively address ways to improve mobility within a corridor or community
- Engagement and outreach about TDM
- Building consensus within the community and/or among stakeholders
- Seeking support (and potential funding) for future or permanent implementation or infrastructure
- Potential duplication of a project within another area of the region
- Improving and/or increasing the ways residents and commuters get around their communities or the region, safely



Cross County Connection TMA Outreach and Education Project (Collingswood)



GVF temporary crosswalk/ramp in Phoenixville Borough (become permanent)

Applying for a TOP Grant



Phase 1: Submit a TOP Expression of Interest (EOI) Proposal



**The Travel Options Program (TOP):
Expression of Interest**

Imagine a region of connected communities, where residents and workers don't need cars and have the freedom to choose from multiple reliable, affordable, safe, and well-connected transportation options. How do we make that vision into a reality? Work with us to develop it!

We are seeking new and innovative ideas that will reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles -- people driving alone to work, school, or errands -- on the region's roadways. Project ideas must respond to the goals, outcomes, and strategies established in A New Route to Better Travel for All: The Regional TDM Plan, available at <https://www.dvrpc.org/TDM>.

The Plan identifies goals that address improving air quality, equity, reliability, affordability, and freedom to choose travel options. Applicants are required to estimate how many vehicle trips they will reduce if the project is implemented.

If your idea is selected, your organization will be asked to submit a more detailed proposal for a project budget that should be at a minimum of \$50,000 and cannot exceed \$500,000. The successful project will be funded through the federal Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

This form is due no later than Friday, January 22nd at 5:00 p.m. If your idea is selected, you will be asked to submit a longer proposal with more details, including a timeline and a budget. The full proposal will be due by March 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

- Attend one TOP info session (this webinar!)
- Read TOP Application Guidelines
- Complete an online EOI form by **September 8, 2025 at 5PM**
- Be available to speak with us between 10/24/25 - 11/14/25 to answer questions brought up in EOI review

Phase 2: Submit a Full TOP Application (Invitation Only)

- Receive an invitation to submit a full TOP application by **November 21, 2025**.
- Research and identify the necessary steps for contract execution
- Submit full TOP application by **January 9, 2026**.
 - Mandatory application materials:
 - TOP application cover sheet
 - A narrative description of the project consistent with the **Project Evaluation Criteria section**
 - A project extent map
 - DVRPC budget proposal form

Review of Updates for FY 27-28 Grant Cycle



- Project min and max increase to \$100,000 - \$300,000
- Change in Regional TDM Plan *goals* language
- Budget template update
- New “Replicability” bonus point in project evaluation criteria

| REGIONAL TDM PLAN GOALS | |
|--|---|
| OLD | NEW |
| Climate Action & Air Quality Improvement | Reduce Vehicle Trips & Improve Air Quality |
| Equity | Expand Economic Opportunity |
| Reliability | Reliability |
| Freedom of Choice | Freedom of Choice |

Where will more information be available?



You can find all the following information on the TOP website

- <https://www.dvrpc.org/top>
- Regional TDM Plan
- Link to online EOI form
- TOP Application Guidelines
- Eligibility resources
- Details about previously awarded projects

We will continue to update the TOP website with information

- Video of this webinar and the slides
- Frequently Asked Questions

TOP Application Process Dates and Deadlines



| TOP Timeline | |
|------------------------------|--|
| July 7, 2025 | Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal form opens |
| July 22, July 30, 2025 | TOP information sessions |
| September 8, 2025 | EOI deadline |
| November 21, 2025 | Invitation to selected project applicants to submit full TOP application |
| January 9, 2026 | Full TOP application deadline |
| April - May 2026 | Notification of award |
| July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028 | Grant period |

* If awarded funds, project sponsors are required to submit evaluations and other project deliverables at the midpoint and endpoint of the grant period.

Q&A Session



What are your questions for us?

Please use the Q & A function in zoom to ask questions

If the volume of questions does not allow us to get to your question during this session, we will post and answer it with all others from this webinar on the TOP webpage (www.dvrpc.org/top).

Contact information

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|---------------|--|
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TRAVEL OPTIONS PROGRAM

THANK YOU!

