Funding Opportunity
The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its role as Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Greater Kansas City is soliciting project proposals for Federal Fiscal Years 2023-2024 for three Federal Highway Administration funding programs.

Since these funding years are beyond the term of current federal transportation legislation, some uncertainty remains surrounding the level of funding available for programming by MARC. Considering this, MARC will look to recent historical levels of funding to provide a reasonable estimate of the resources available for programming purposes. For this project solicitation, MARC anticipates the following funding targets; however, these estimates may be subject to change:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Anticipated Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ)</td>
<td>2023-2024</td>
<td>$5.6 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.0 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STBG Set-aside (formerly Transportation Alternatives Program (TAPI))</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2.0 M</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All of these programs are reimbursement programs. Each program is limited to a maximum of 80% federal share and requires a local match of at least 20% for any federal funds awarded to any project. Funds awarded to projects through these programs will typically be administered by KDOT or MoDOT through Local Public Agency program procedures.

Application Procedures
This funding opportunity will consist of two phases, an initial screening and a technical evaluation. The dates for each part of this proposal solicitation are as follows. Completion of both phases is required for funding consideration.

Phase I – Preapplications & Initial Screening
- Opening date: April 30, 2020
- Closing date: Preapplications must be submitted in full by 4:00 p.m. CST on Friday, May 29, 2020. **Preapplications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. **

Phase II – Full Applications & Technical Evaluation
- Opening Date: August 3, 2020
- Closing Date: Applications must be submitted in full by 4:00 p.m. CST on Friday, September 4, 2020.
**Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. **

Completion of both phases is required for funding consideration.

The application instructions, resources, maps and online form will be available at the following address:

https://connectedkc.org/funding/
Key Contacts

Programming Policy Questions
Ron Achelpohl, PE
Director of Transportation and Environment
(816) 474-4240
rona@marc.org

Application Questions
Marc Hansen, AICP
Principal Planner
(816) 701-8317
mhansen@marc.org

Application Process

A. Applicant Registration

Getting Started
The first step in the application process is applicant registration. Registration provides access to the form and allows the applicant to edit and update previously submitted projects before the application deadline. An individual applicant need only register once. To register, please take the following steps:

1. Visit https://connectedkc.org/funding/ using Chrome or Firefox
3. This will bring you to a new page where you will need to register. Complete the information on the registration page. The asterisks (*) denote which fields are required
4. Once all fields have been completed, click Register.
5. You will be redirected back to the login page. Use your new username and password; click **Login**.
   a. Once you have registered you can login directly after clicking on **Fill Out Preapplication**. Please be sure to note your username and password as they will act as your login information. If at anytime you forget your password, do not contact MARC staff, instead click **Forgot Password** and you will be emailed a link to reset it.
6. Once logged in you will land on the MARC Member Portal Page.
7. Click on **Start New Application** to begin a new application.
   
   ![User Registration Form](image.png)

You may **Cancel** the application at any time. If you need to leave the application before you are finished, click **Save Progress**, and you can return to the application by clicking **Edit** under the project title on the portal landing page. Note, asterisks through the application denote required
fields, some of these may change depending on answers you select in the form. You cannot click **Submit Application** until all required fields have been answered. Users have the option to enter a new project or edit a previously entered project. Projects may be edited until the application deadline at **4:00 PM on May 29, 2020**. If you would like to keep a copy of your submittal you can use the **Print** button to make a hard copy.

a. **NOTE:** If a project has a geography it must be included in the application, failing to do so could negatively impact the project’s assessment. Within the map tool you will have the option to draw a shape, line or polygon by using the **Draw on the Map** section. If your project does not have a specific geography, but covers an entire region, you may select an entire City, County or multiple jurisdictions by using the **Geographic Selection** section. Once you draw a geography you can delete it or edit it following the instructions included in the map.

b. **Phase I Preapplication Structure**
The Phase I preapplication consists of the following five sections.
- Basic project description (mode/scope/type)
- Description of advanced Connected KC 2050 strategies
- Description of various specific project elements
- Financial information (budget/funds requested/program)
- Geospatial project description (drawing tool)
C. **Phase II Application Structure**

The phase II application consists of the following five sections. Each section will be discussed in greater detail.

1. General project information
2. Air quality information
3. Category specific information
4. Financial information
5. Supporting documentation

A single project application may be used to apply for all three funding programs if eligible.

1. **General Project Information**

In the first section of the application, general project information, the applicant will initiate the application and provide basic project details. The first two questions of the section require the applicant to categorize their project and identify the funding programs(s) they would like to apply for. **All project proposals must complete this portion of the application.**

Should a user select a project type that is ineligible for the funding program(s) chosen, an error message will be displayed when attempting to advance to the next section.

In addition to the items listed above, topics covered in the General Project Information section of the application include, but are not limited to:

- Project location, description, and partners
- Project relationship to regional and local plans
- Status of project plan development
- Impacts on environmental justice and greenhouse gas emissions
- Consistency with the MARC Complete Streets Policy

The General Project Information section contains several required fields that must be completed prior to advancing to the next section of the application. These fields are:

- Project type
- Funding stream
- State
- County
- Project title
- Project description
- Project purpose and need
- Functional classification
- Status of right-of-way acquisition

**Although not all fields are required, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete all fields.**
2. **Air Quality**

For this project solicitation, all project applications, regardless of funding program, must complete a questionnaire regarding potential impacts on the region’s air quality. The data requested will be used to calculate emissions reductions, cost effectiveness of emissions reductions and impacts to vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Based on the project type selected under General Project Information, applicants will be directed to one of the six following air quality questionnaires.

1. Alternative fuel
2. Bicycle/pedestrian
3. Diesel retrofit
4. Outreach/other
5. Traffic flow
6. Transit

Although the forms address different project types, the data requested is similar and regards items such as number of users or vehicles, length of trips, and project life, among others.

Applicants should select the most appropriate sub-classification from the list provided and the answer the applicable questions for that sub-classification.

3. **Category Specific Information**

If an applicant chooses to apply for STP and/or TAP funds, they will be directed to the appropriate category specific information. If only CMAQ funds are selected, the applicant will be directed to complete the financial and supporting documentation sections of the application.

For STP funding, the applicant will be directed to one of the following five categories based on the project type selected in the general project information section:

- Road and bridge
- Public transportation
- Bicycle/pedestrian
- Livable communities and other
- Transportation safety

Topics covered in the STP category specific sections include fields related to:

- Accessibility/public health
  - Elimination of barriers
  - Details of multimodal aspects
- Economic vitality
  - Impacts on activity centers and freight movement
- Equity
  - Public involvement aspects
- Environment
  - Impacts on agricultural or sensitive lands
  - Metrogreen connectivity
• Public health
  ▪ Strategies to reduce ozone-forming emissions

• Safety
  ▪ Crash data
  ▪ Proposed countermeasures

• System condition
  ▪ Age of facility
  ▪ Current condition
  ▪ Replacement of obsolete vehicles
  ▪ Bridge ratings

• System performance
  ▪ Traffic volumes
  ▪ Level of service
  ▪ Reduction in operating costs
  ▪ Congestion management toolbox strategies

Although not all fields are required, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete all fields.

For TAP funding, the applicant will be directed to one of the following five categories based on the project type selected in the general project information section:

• Bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities
• Transportation aesthetics and scenic values
• Environmental mitigation and vegetation management
• Historic preservation and archaeological projects
• Bicycle and/or pedestrian safety and education

Topics covered in the TAP category specific section include fields related to:

• Community benefits
• Relationship to transportation
• System connectivity
• Relationship to Creating Quality Places
• Performance measurement
• Project design features

Although not all fields are required, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete all fields.

4. Financial Information
The final required step in the application submittal process is the detailing of financial information for the project. After completing the general information, air quality, and category specific information sections, you are automatically directed to the input screen for financial information.

The input screen consists of three rows.

• Row 1 - you must enter the amount (in thousands) of federal funds requested for each of the funding programs selected in the General Project Information section.
• Row 2 – you must enter the amount of matching funds (in thousands) for each of the funding programs selected in the General Project Information section...

  The amount of required matching funds must be at least 20% of the total project cost
• Row 3 – you must specify the requested year of funding. For this solicitation, the following years apply:
  o CMAQ  2023-2024
  o STP   2023-2024
  o TAP   2023-2024

Applicants are also provided an opportunity to provide additional details regarding the funding request. This information should include the total project cost and items such as requests for funding from multiple states or across multiple years.

In the final part of the financial section, applicants are asked to identify the percentage of their project cost that applies to each transportation mode listed on the submission form. Modes may include automobiles, public transit, bicycles, pedestrians, and rail or truck freight. Percentages should add up to 100%.

5. Supporting Documentation

The final section of the application provides applicants an opportunity to upload supporting documentation for their application. This documentation might include items such as:
  • Project map
  • Detailed cost estimate
  • Detailed timeline Project photograph(s), or drawings
  • Any other supporting documentation, such as resolutions or letters of support, maintenance agreements, etc.

A maximum of four files per application can be uploaded through this process. Each file is limited to a maximum size of 3 MB and must be of the following file types: PDF, JPG, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel. To submit other file types, including available GIS files for the project, please contact Marc Hansen at 816-701-8317 or mhansen@marc.org