



# 2023 Regional Federal Funding Allocation Project Proposal Form

whatcom council of governments

## Available Funding

WCOG will be allocating funding from two federal programs.

- The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)
- The Transportation Alternatives Program (TA), a sub-program under STBG.

The 2023 project selection will allocate funding from three federal fiscal year (FFY) apportionments of STBG & TA (2027, 2028, & 2029).

## Apportionments to Census-areas

FHWA pre-apportions funding from these programs to four area-types based on U.S. Census measures of population density: urban, urban medium, urban small, and rural (Whatcom County has no “urban” areas.) A fifth amount is apportioned for “any-area” (often referred to as “flex”). The map below shows the current area-boundaries for the Whatcom region’s urban small and urban medium areas. The remainder is rural. An online ArcGIS version of this map, that is scalable for more precise verification of project location and funding availability, is available at WCOG.org.

**Whatcom Region Census Areas for STBG & TA Funding Apportionments: Urban Medium, Urban Small, & Rural**



### How Much Funding is Available to Each Area Type?

		Area Specific			Whatcom Region Total
		Urban Medium	Urban Small	Rural	
Amounts can only be spent in these area types.	STBG	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$1,375,000	\$3,875,000
	TA	\$1,050,000	\$320,000	\$265,000	\$1,635,000
	Area-designated totals	\$3,550,000	\$320,000	\$1,640,000	\$5,510,000
		↓			
		Any-area			
Available to Any-area (Flexible)	STBG	\$1,450,000			
	TA	\$835,000			\$835,000
	Any-area total	\$2,285,000			\$2,285,000
		↓			
		Maximum Available to Each Area-type			\$7,795,000
		Urban Medium	Urban Small	Rural	
		+ Any-area	+ Any-area	+ Any-area	
Combined amounts available to each area type	STBG	\$3,950,000	\$1,450,000	\$2,825,000	
	TA	\$1,885,000	\$1,155,000	\$1,100,000	
	Total	\$5,835,000	\$2,605,000	\$3,925,000	

(Amounts from WSDOT updated February 2023)

### Project selection schedule 2023

- Project funding proposal forms available by: **March 1**
- Proposals due to WCOG: **May 12**
- TTAG presentations: **May 25**
- Preliminary scores due: **June 15**
- TTAG meeting: project overviews, Q&A, finalization of TTAG scores: **June 22**
- Policy Board finalization of project selection: **July 12**

## General information

Project title: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief executive officer)

Name & title: \_\_\_\_\_

Participating agency (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & title: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach additional participating agencies information as needed.*

## Certifications

*Please check each statement to confirm.*

The project proposed below is consistent with the Whatcom regional/metropolitan transportation plan (*Way to Go, Whatcom*) and is part of the regional transportation system as currently adopted.

In order to meet annual targets set by WSDOT for timely use of federal funding and avoid reductions of future funding allocations to the region, the lead agency certifies that it will obligate amounts awarded to each phase no later than the June 30 following the proposed phase start date (stated below)

Examples: If a project phase is proposed to start in April 2026, funds need to be obligated by June 30, 2026. If a phase is proposed to start in September 2026, funds need to be obligated by June 30, 2027.

The project is listed on the lead agency's current six-year TIP, will be added to the lead agency's current year TIP, or is listed on a transportation plan adopted by the lead agency.

## Project Location Area-type

Please attach a detailed vicinity map.

This project is in the:      Urban Medium Area              Urban Small Area

Rural Area

## ITS

To help WCOG keep the Regional ITS Plan current, please indicate if the proposed project includes intelligent transportation systems (ITS) – the transfer of real-time information to enable or improve a transportation operations strategy.

Yes                      No

## Funding & Phasing

Please check the program or programs that:

- 1) The proposed project is eligible to use funds from and
- 2) Your agency is interested in receiving funds from.

**STBG** (FFYs 2027, 2028, & 2029)

**TA** (FFYs 2027, 2028, & 2029)

	Start & End Dates of Each Project Phase		
	PE	RoW	CN
Start date (mo/yr)			
End date (mo/yr)			

Lead agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Source	Funding amounts		
	PE	RoW	CN
STBG or TA request			
Other federal			
Local			
Private			
State			
Other: _____			
Total			

(If a Joint Project) Participating agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Source	Funding amounts		
	PE	RoW	CN
STBG or TA request			
Other federal			
Local			
Private			
State			
Other: _____			
Total			

**Project total**

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## Evaluation criteria & Scoring Guidance

STBG funding proposals will be scored on the first 8 criteria listed below – 7 prioritized regional-goals-based criteria and 1 supplemental criterion. 7 of the 8 STBG criteria will be scored on a 10 point-scale. The 8<sup>th</sup> criterion (project readiness) will be scored on a 5-point scale. The first 5 criteria will be weighted (factored up) by the factor listed in those sections. For clarity and consistency, project evaluators will give scores between 0 and 10. Weights will be applied by WCOG when all evaluators’ scores are tabulated.

TA proposals will be scored on one criterion (the last criteria listed below). If a project is seeking funding from TA, skip the first 11 criteria and only provide information in the TA field.

For STBG funding proposals there are seven project evaluation criteria, each with an associated ten available points. The criteria are based on the regional transportation goals identified in the regional/metropolitan transportation plan, *Way to Go, Whatcom*. These criteria are listed in the priority order adopted by the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board. In recognition of the adopted prioritization, the base scores of the criteria will be multiplied by a weight factor as indicated.

Several of the criteria are followed by suggested scoring guidelines and/or descriptions of data that will inform and support evaluators’ assignments of points. Other criteria are left more completely to evaluators’ assessment and point allocation.

Please note that while scoring guidelines may list point values for project elements that add up to more than ten, ten points is still the maximum score per criterion. Suggested point values for specific elements are not intended to be all-or-nothing values. The number of points an evaluator awards for each criterion or per suggested element point-value is left to individual discretion.

### Regional Goal 1: Safety [Complete if requesting STBG funds]

*“The safety of all users of the region’s transportation system – pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, automobile drivers and passengers, and truckers – must be maximized to the greatest degree practicable in the establishment of regional transportation policies and investment decisions.”*

**Criterion:** The project increases safety

**Points:** 13.5 (10 multiplied by 1.35 priority weight)

#### Suggested scoring guidelines:

The project is expected to address observed fatality or serious-injury crash history per the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) measures – 5-year rolling averages of: Number of fatalities Rate of fatalities per 100 million VMT Number of serious injuries Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries WCOG will obtain and summarize data from the WSDOT Crash Data & Reporting Branch for project proponents to use for illustrating alignment with these criteria. Project impacts can be location specific or region-wide (e.g. resulting from education or technology).	10 pts
The project addresses safety needs as indicated by documented collision data. (e.g. – non injury crashes)	5 pts.
The project includes safety-related improvements (e.g. on an evacuation route, improves radius of horizontal curves, pedestrian-roadway buffer, 4-ft shoulders with fog-stripe, lighting, transit pullout, traffic-calming)	5 pts.

**If the proposed project is expected to increase safety, please describe how.**

3,400 character limit

**Regional Goal 2: Provide all types of transportation (multimodal) [Complete if requesting STBG funds]**

*“To serve the growing number of trips and goods movement effectively and efficiently, our transportation network must provide and promote attractive and well-connected options for all types of trip-making: walking, rolling, biking, cars, buses, rail, ferry, trucks, etc. Operating a multi-modal transportation system means that we are striving to serve trips (people, goods, and services) as well as managing road capacity for vehicles.”*

**Criterion:** The project is not focused on increasing capacity for personal *vehicles*. Rather, the project will increase the availability, efficiency, and/or desirability of non-SOV travel through broad or specific investments in one or more other modes including walking, rolling, transit, or freight.

**Points:** 13 (10 multiplied by 1.3 priority weight)

**Suggested scoring guidelines:**

Example facilities, operations, or programs	New or filling of a gap in the system	Improvement of existing facilities
Transit – current or planned WTA fixed route	1-10 pts.	1-6 pts.
Standard width shoulders		
Sidewalks		
Paved or separated trail		
Bike lanes		
<i>Others?</i>		

**If the proposed project is expected to increase the availability, efficiency, and/or desirability of non-SOV modes, please describe how:** 3,400 character limit

**Regional Goal 3: Climate (GHG reduction) and environmental quality** [Complete if requesting STBG funds]

*“Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and more broadly advancing environmental mitigation and restoration (e.g., energy conservation, habitat preservation, and air and water quality) are outcomes of paramount importance in the region.”*

**Criterion:** The project will improve environmental conditions. This criterion is not intended to acknowledge environmental mitigation to offset known or expected project impacts.

**Points:** 12.5 (10 multiplied by 1.25 priority weight)

**Suggested scoring guidelines:**

Results in energy conservation.	1-10 pts  Based on expected degree of improvement.
Results in improved water quality / storm water management.	
Results in restored habitat.	
Results in greenhouse gas emissions reduction.	
Supports healthy communities.	
Addresses an environmental justice issue.	
Project includes significant sustainability practices (e.g., recycled materials)	

*Submitting agencies shall provide industry standard methods and analysis in support of estimates related to measures like those above.*

**If the proposed project is expected to improve environmental conditions, please describe how:** 3,400 character limit



**Regional Goal 4: Maintain existing infrastructure in good, operating condition (preservation) [Complete if requesting STBG funds]**

*This goal indicates the Whatcom region's intent to ensure that existing transportation systems are kept in a state of good repair before pursuing system expansions. This goal includes the principle of sustainability – choosing investments in facilities and programs that our region has the ability and willingness to pay for, operate, and maintain into the future.*

**Criterion:** The project contributes to preservation of existing system facilities (repair, reconstruction, resurfacing, seismic retrofit, bridge work, etc.)

**Points:** 12 (10 multiplied by 1.2 priority weight)

**Suggested scoring guidelines:** 1-10 points based on assessed degree of importance.

Please note: **Preservation** is understood here (per FHWA definitions) to consist of work that improves or sustains a facility so that it is in a **state of good repair**. Preservation does not generally result in additional capacity or added structural value.

While the corresponding regional goal includes maintenance, **maintenance** is understood here (per FHWA definitions) to refer narrowly to routine work on operational conditions that require regular, recurring attention (landscaping, sweeping, paint, etc.). Maintenance activities are not eligible for federal funding.

**If the proposed project will preserve existing facilities, please describe how:**  
3,400 character limit

**Regional Goal 5: System efficiency and reliability (mobility) [Complete if requesting STBG funds]**

*“High quality travel and goods movement as indicated by various measures such as travel time, travel-time predictability, vehicle miles traveled, reliability, and comfort. Our region's goal of optimizing mobility pertains to all types (modes) of transportation. Mobility depends on adequate transportation system capacity. To track progress on this goal (and other goals), WCOG emphasizes planning for the whole system’s operational capacity for serving forecast increases in trips rather than a narrower focus on our roads’ capacity for vehicles.”*

**Criterion:** The project will improve transportation system efficiency and/or reliability as described above.

**Points:** 11.5 (10 multiplied by 1.15 priority weight)

**Suggested scoring guidelines:** 1-10 points

The project is expected to improve performance:	1-10 pts Based on expected degree of improvement.
Of a <u>road link</u> currently operating or forecast to operate below the jurisdiction’s adopted level of service.	
Of an <u>intersection</u> that meets, or is forecast to meet, the jurisdiction’s adopted criteria for adding traffic control or other system-improving modifications (e.g. MUTCD warrants, NACTO design guide, etc.).	
As a result of an ITS deployment (e.g., signal, others).	
As a result of transportation demand management (TDM).	
Of transit (e.g., on-time performance, operating costs, etc.)	
Addresses other deficiencies	

**Please note:** WCOG can provide model output relative to above suggested road link measures. Other analysis (e.g., intersection engineering studies for MUTCD warrants) shall be provided by the submitting agency.

**If the proposed project will improve transportation system efficiency and/or reliability, please describe how:** 3,400 character limit

**Regional Goal 6: Access, equity, and economic opportunity**

[Complete if requesting STBG funds]

*“The region’s transportation system should work for all people; should acknowledge and reduce barriers related to age (seniors and youth), income, physical ability, and historical marginalization; and should connect people to resources, services, and opportunities critical to economic success (especially education and employment).”*

**Criterion:** The project will enable more people; including those who cannot drive due to age, income, or physical ability; to get where they need to go.

**Points:** 10 (not weighted)

**Suggested scoring guidelines:**

Example outcomes:	
Improves pedestrian or bike connections across current barriers (e.g., major roadways) or to multimodal connections (park & rides, transit stops, etc.) – especially for currently or historically underserved communities.	1-10 pts.  Based on expected degree of improvement.
Improves transportation connections between underserved communities and employment centers and/or schools.	
Improves or provides a route that connects jurisdictions (e.g., Blaine to Lynden)	
Improves or provides a route to a multi-modal hub (transit hub, park & ride, airport, train station, etc.)	
Improves or provides a route or improved multimodal connections to a major activity center (hospital, college/university, government services/administration, major commercial center.)	

**If the proposed project will improve access, equity, and/or access to economic opportunity, please describe how:** 3,400 character limit

**Regional Goal 7: Freight and economic vitality**

[Complete if requesting STBG funds]

*“In addition to providing for the movement of people, our regional transportation system must provide for effective and efficient movement of goods and services and do so in a way that is consistent with our other goals listed above. A transportation network that enables transactions and the associated movement of products and services is essential to economic vitality.”*

**Criterion:** The project addresses freight-transportation needs and is located on a WA state designated Freight and Goods Transportation System (FGTS) road OR a road that recent truck counts (provided by proponent) show carries [freight tonnage equivalent](#) to an FGTS category

**Points:** 10 (not weighted)

**Suggested scoring guidelines:**

FGTS T-1 or T-2 road or equivalent.	5-10 pts.
FGTS T-3 or T4 road or equivalent.	3-7 pts.
FGTS T-5 road or equivalent.	1-5 pts
Provides connectivity to major freight intermodal facilities and large industrial/warehouse centers and/or agricultural & forestry facilities as identified by WSDOT’s 2017 State Freight Plan and WSDOT’s criteria for identifying freight corridors under FHWA’s FAST Freight program.	1-10 pts

***Note:** WSDOT FGTS road classifications viewable on [WCOG’s GIS portal](#). On the Layers menu, select “WSDOT – Freight and Goods.” To open the color legend, click on the arrow (>) to the right of the layer title and then click on the revealed “Legend” tab.*

**If the proposed project will improve freight transportation and economic vitality, please describe how:** 3,400 character limit

**Supplemental Criterion 1: Preliminary work has been completed**

[Complete if requesting STBG funds]

**Criterion:** Relative to the project-phase(s) that funding is being requested for (PE, RoW, CN), has the proponent completed meaningful preparatory work indicative of their commitment.

**Available points:** 5

**Suggested scoring guidelines:**

Ready for construction	5 pts
Design / preliminary planning	2 pts.
Environmental (or if project is categorically excluded)	2 pts.
Archeological	2 pts.
Right-of-way acquisition (or if RoW is not needed)	2 pts.
Other (e.g. feasibility study, geotechnical work, etc.)	2 pts.

**If the proponent has completed meaningful preparatory work for the proposed project, please describe:** 3,400 character limit

**WCOG Transportation Alternatives Project Criterion:** [Complete only if requesting TA funds]

**Criterion:** The project fulfills TA program objectives as described in the TA Set-Aside Implementation Guidance.

**Available points:** 10

**Please describe how the project will fulfill TA program objectives as described in the implementation guidance:** 3,400 character limit

**Attachments:**

- Project location/termini map
- Other (designs, charts, etc.)
- Letters of support for private contributions.
- Associated data (counts etc.)