

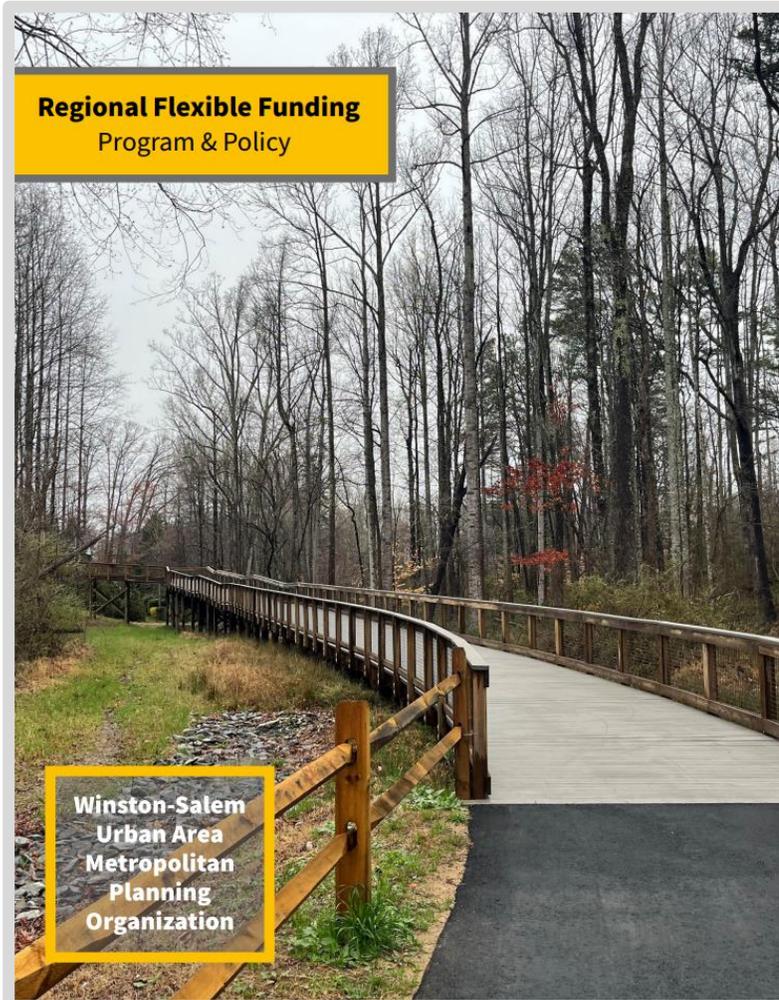
Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) Program

Prepared for Piedmont Transportation Professionals

Locally Administered Projects Training Day 1



Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) Program



- Today's slides summarize our Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) Program and Policy
 - Adopted July 18, 2024
 - Goes into *full effect* Fall 2025
- Follow along for Program Updates and Call for Projects announcements at:
 - <https://www.cityofws.org/1488/Programs-Services>

Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) Program

- Same direct attributable programs, combined under new name
- Programs funds over a five-year period



**Surface
Transportation
Block Grant**



**Transportation
Alternatives
Program**



**Congestion Mitigation
and Air Quality
Improvement Program**



**Carbon Reduction
Program**

Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) Program

- Offers a **NEW** annual opportunity to request supplemental funds for existing, MPO-funded projects
- Continues biennial (once every two years) opportunity to apply for funding for new projects

Call Year	Jan 2026	Mar 2027	Jan 2028	Mar 2029	Jan 2030	Mar 2031	Jan 2032
Programmed Years	FY26 – FY30	Remaining Available	FY28 – FY32	Remaining Available	FY30 – FY34	Remaining Available	FY32 – FY36
Type	New/Supp	Supp	New/Supp	Supp	New/Supp	Supp	New/Supp

Regional Flexible Funding (RFF) Program Funding Forecast (FY26 – FY30)

Funding Source	FY 26 (thousands)	FY 27 (thousands)	FY 28 (thousands)	FY 29 (thousands)	FY 30 (thousands)
STBG	\$13,355	\$7,402	\$7,402	\$7,402	\$7,402
TA	\$933	\$933	\$933	\$933	\$933
CMAQ	\$1,820	\$1,820	\$1,820	\$1,820	\$1,820
CRP*	\$895	-	-	-	-

RFF Program Funding Paths

Special Studies

- Dedicates STBG-DA funding to eligible planning studies
- “Call before the Call”
- Occurs November - January **annually**

New Projects

- Funds new, eligible transportation projects
- Uses best fitting, available funds
- Call occurs **every two years** (2026, 2028, 2030, etc.)

Existing Projects (Supplemental)

- Adds funds to already MPO-funded projects
- Uses best fitting, available funds
- Call occurs annually (2025*, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, etc.)

Transit Vehicle Replacements

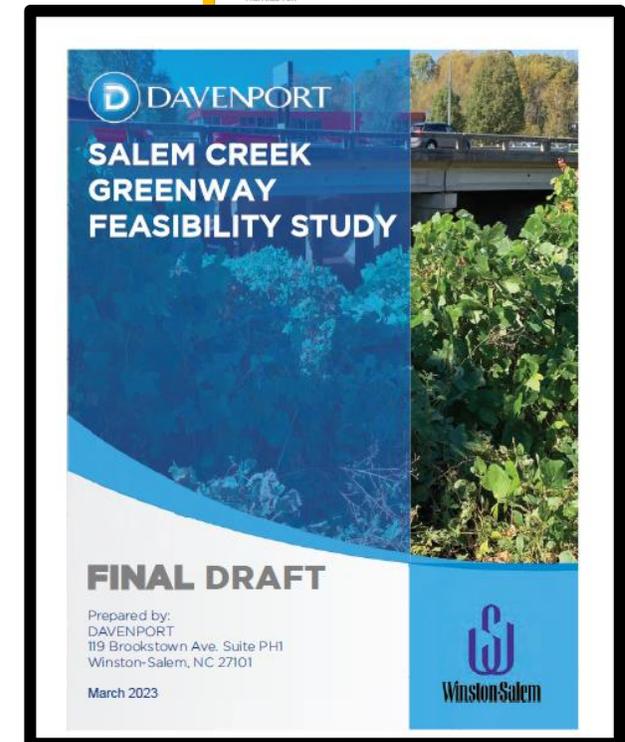
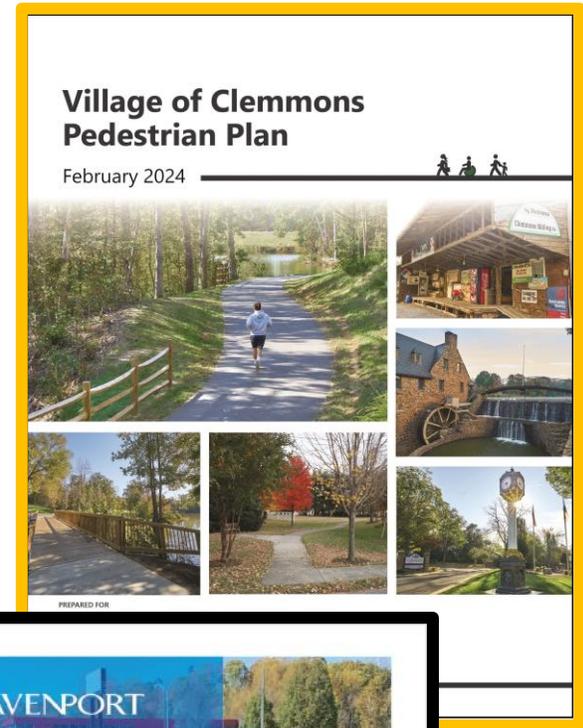
- Special project category with permission to apply in any call
- Occurs every Call (2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, etc.)

Special Studies Call for Projects

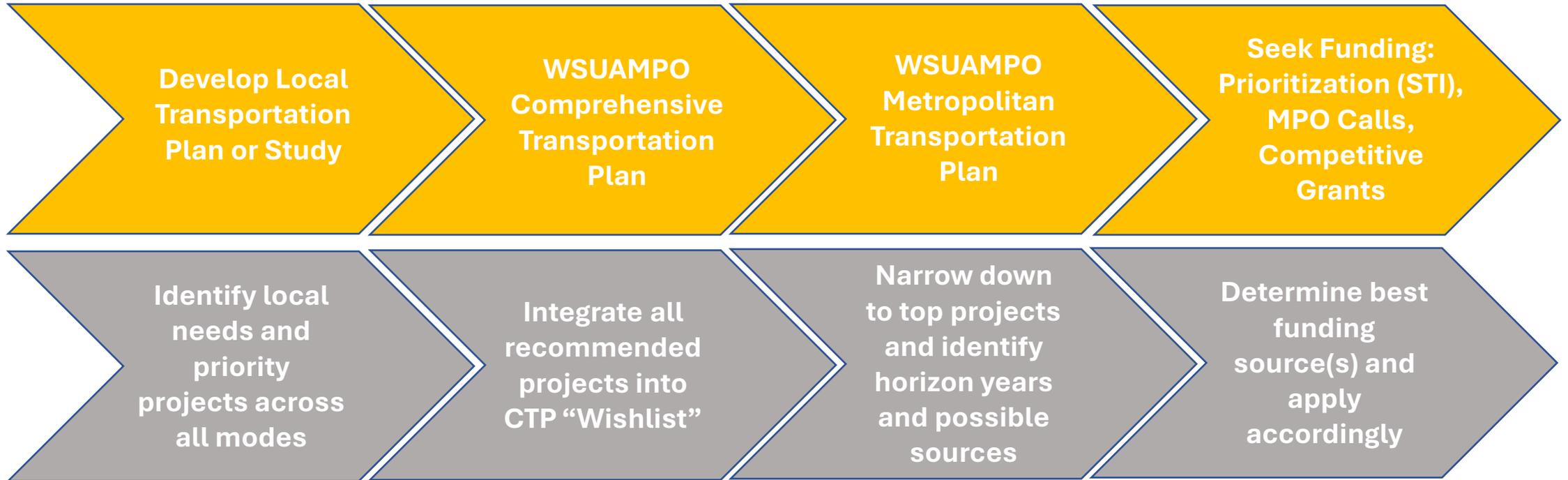
- **Every year**
- **Precedes capital call for projects**
- **Most/all eligible requests awarded***

WSUAMPO *Plans Ahead*

- Before capital funding is pursued, WSUAMPO encourages consideration of:
 - Planning Studies
 - Feasibility Studies
 - Community Transportation Plans
- Studies help:
 - Meet requirements for receiving funding
 - Projects score higher in evaluations
 - Identify risks and needs – utilities, environmental constraints, etc.
 - Provide foundation for cost estimates and schedules
 - Improve project prioritization
 - Gain community support
- MPO sets aside 5% of its direct attributable funding to go toward Special Studies



The MPO's "Ideal" Planning to Project Pipeline



Special Studies

- Announce annual open call via email and website:
November 1 – January 31
 - Studies included in UPWP adopted in March
- Applicants will submit proposals via Survey123 form
- Upload:
 - ✓ Draft Scope of Work
 - ✓ Project Summary
 - ✓ Cost Estimate Documentation
 - ✓ 20% Match Commitment

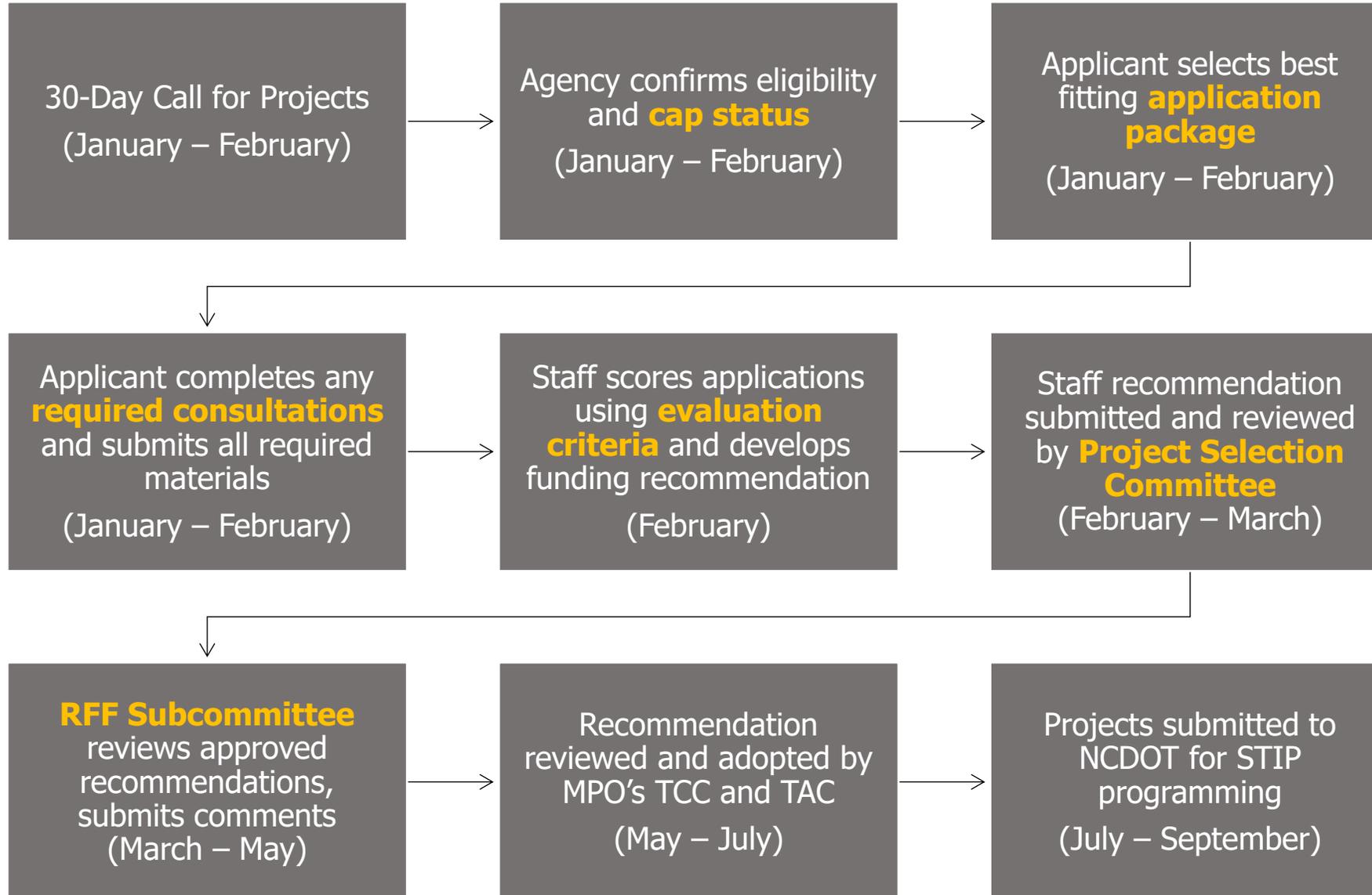


Professor Ruff says "Study Up!"
While the only requirement is for your project to be in an adopted plan, why not take things a step further with a feasibility study? It could earn you extra points in future evaluations and gain favor with the Selection Committee.

Call for New Projects

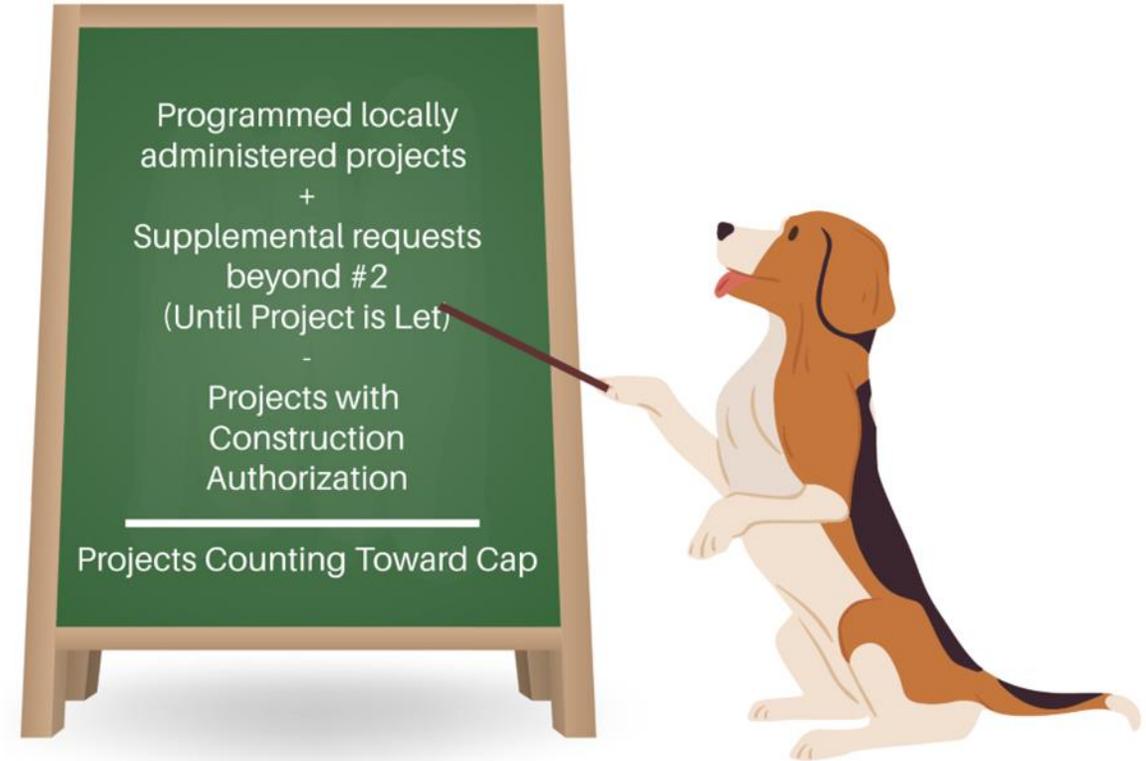
- **Even years only**
- **Any eligible project**
- **All available
funding sources**

New Project Process



Check Your Project Cap Status Before Applying

Municipality Size	Municipalities	Maximum Number of RFF Projects
Large	Winston-Salem	15
Medium	Clemmons, Lewisville, Kernersville	8
Small	Bermuda Run, Bethania, King, Midway, Rural Hall, Tobaccoville, Wallburg, Walkertown	5



- Municipalities above the cap CANNOT submit any *new* applications.

New Project Application Structure and Requirements

- Basic Project Info
 - From/To, TIP ID, Mode, etc.
- Purpose and Need
- Local Priority Information
- Funding Request by Phase
 - Uses **MPO Standard Cost Estimate Form**
 - Professional Engineer Estimate
- Project Readiness Screening Questions
- Evaluation Questions
 - *Narrative Form*
- Attachments (Maps, Studies, Diagrams, Quotes, etc.)
- Local Match Commitment Letter



Cost Estimate and Schedule Consultation Requirements

- Cost estimate must be prepared by professional engineer
 - OR: Checked by RFF Subcommittee/NCDOT Division 9 before submittal
- 18-24 months between phases of work requirement
- RFF requires use of standard form that automatically calculates contingencies:
 - **40%** if project is in Planning
 - **30%** if project is in Design
 - **25%** if project is in ROW
 - **10%** if project is in Construction
 - **+ 5%** inflation increase per year



Application Information

Application Types and Forms

- **Roadway and Intersection**
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian/
Greenway**
- **Transit Service or Facility
Enhancement**
- **Transit Vehicle Purchase**
- **Innovative Transportation
Improvement Project
(Other)**

Application Criteria

- **15% Congestion Relief**
- **20% Safety Improvements**
- **10% Fairness and
Environmental Justice**
- **15% Project Readiness**
- **10% Accessibility and
Connectivity**
- **30% Qualitative Narrative**

Application Information

Application Types and Forms

- **Roadway and Intersection**
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian/
Greenway**
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Enhancement**
- **Transit Vehicle Purchase**
- **Innovative Transportation
Improvement Project
(Other)**

Application Criteria

- **27% Safety**
- **40% Project Readiness**
- **13% Accessibility/Connectivity**
- **20% Qualitative Narrative**

Application Information

Application Types and Forms

- **Roadway and Intersection**
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian/
Greenway**
- **Transit Service or Facility
Enhancement**
- **Transit Vehicle Purchase**
- **Innovative Transportation
Improvement Project
(Other)**

Application Criteria

- **20% Enhanced Mobility for All**
- **10% Project Readiness /
Planning Consistency**
- **20% Ridership**
- **40% Qualitative Narrative**
- **10% Cost Effectiveness**

Application Information

Application Types and Forms

- **Roadway and Intersection**
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian/
Greenway**
- **Transit Service or Facility
Enhancement**
- **Transit Vehicle Purchase**
- **Innovative Transportation
Improvement Project
(Other)**

Application Criteria

- **90% Qualitative Narrative**
- **10% Cost Effectiveness**

Application Information

Application Types and Forms

- **Roadway and Intersection**
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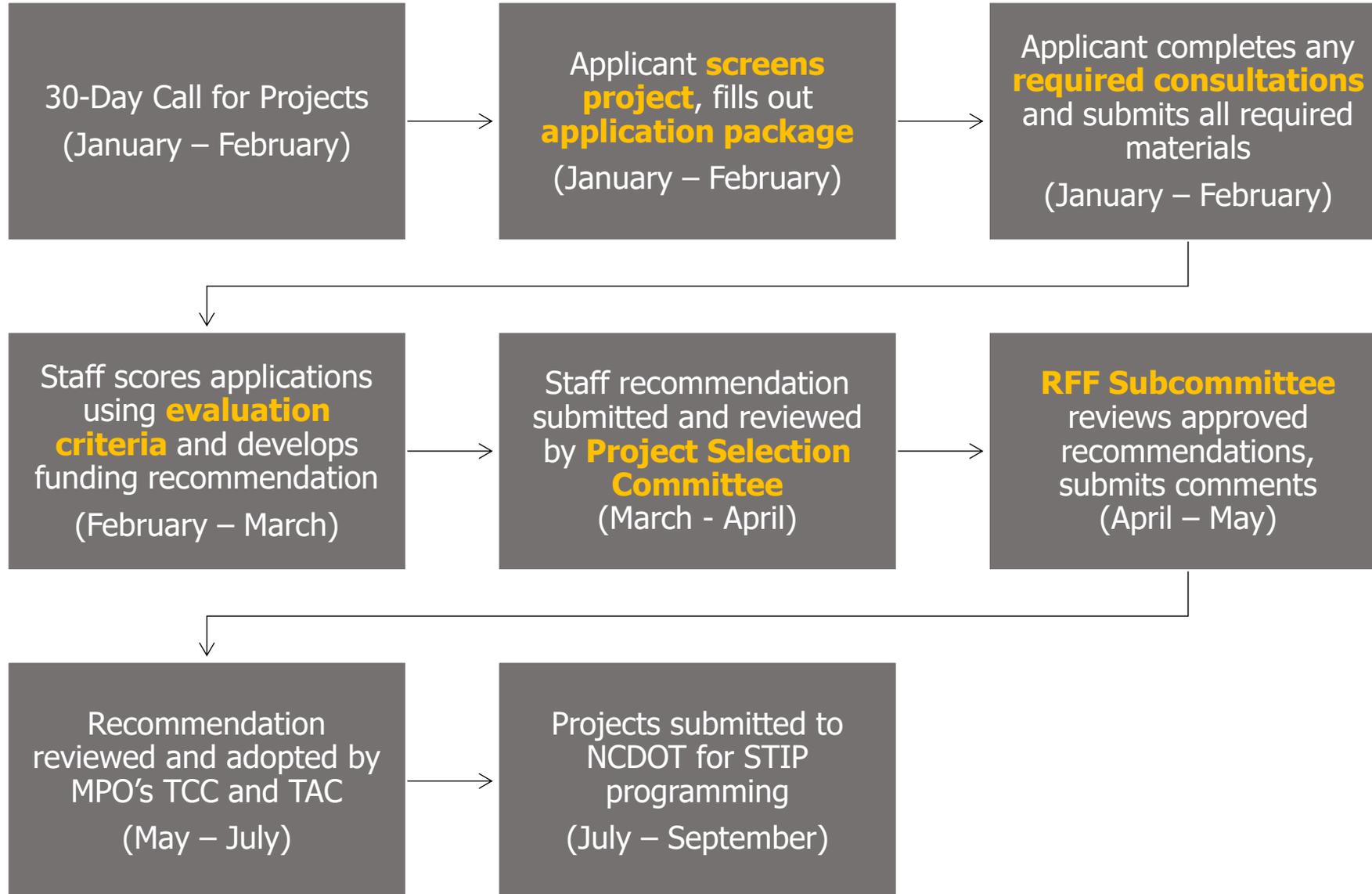
Application Criteria

- **15% Congestion Relief**
- **20% Safety Improvements**
- **10% Fairness and
Environmental Justice**
- **15% Project Readiness**
- **10% Project Innovation**
- **30% Qualitative Narrative**

Call for Existing Projects (Supplemental)

- **Every year**
- **Any eligible project**
- **Dedicated amount of all available funding sources**
- **Pilot to occur in early 2025**

Existing (Supplemental) Project Process



Cost Estimate and Schedule Consultation Requirements

- Cost estimate must be prepared by professional engineer
 - OR: Checked by RFF Subcommittee/NCDOT Division 9 before submittal
- 18-24 months between phases of work requirement
- RFF requires use of standard form that automatically calculates contingencies:
 - 40% if project in Planning
 - 30% if project in Design
 - 25% if project in ROW
 - 10% if project in Construction
 - + 5% inflation increase per year



Supplemental Application Structure and Requirements

- Basic Project Info
 - From/To, TIP ID, Mode, Current Phase of Work, etc.
- Purpose and Need
- Funding Request by Phase
 - Uses **MPO Standard Cost Estimate Form**
 - Professional Engineer Estimate
 - Report of % increase over original budget/request
- Summary of Progress
- Narrative



Application Information

- Supplemental Funding for Existing Projects Application

Supplemental Funding for Existing Projects Criteria	Maximum Points
Percent Increase in Request to WSUAMPO Over Original Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 50% (15 pts.) 51–99% (10 pts.) 100–149% (5 pts.) 150% (0 pts.) 	15 pts.
Highest Phase Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ROW (15 pts.) Design (10 pts.) Planning (5 pts.) No Phase Complete (Ineligible for Supplemental) 	15 pts.
Previously Received Supplemental Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 Times (15 pts.) 1 Time (10 pts.) 2 Times (5 pts.) 3 Times (3 pts.) >3 Times (0 pts.) 	15 pts.
Length of Time Since Initial Fund Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <3 Years (15 pts.) 3–4 Years (10 pts.) 4–5 Years (5 pts.) >5 Years (0 pts.) 	15 pts.

Supplemental Funding for Existing Projects Criteria	Maximum Points
Ten Percent of New Project Score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiply how the project would score under a new project evaluation times ten percent (10%). Assume full points for narrative. (Example: Score of 75 = 7.5 points). 	10 pts.
Qualitative Narrative: Responsiveness to Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP Goals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Selection Committee assesses responsiveness to prompt: Pick three (3) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals or objectives and describe how the project helps accomplish these goals. Limit your response to three paragraphs. (10 pts. each; 30 pts. total) 	30 pts.
TOTAL	TOTAL / 100 pts.

Transit Vehicle Replacements

- **Every year**
- **Must replace a past useful life vehicle**

Transit Vehicle Replacement Application Information

- Projects will utilize **Transit Vehicle Purchase** application form and criteria
- Separate, standard MPO cost estimate form will be provided
- MPO requires quotes or another applicable estimate





**THANK
YOU**