



# TIB Topics

Updates from the Transportation Improvement Board • October 2013

## Arterial Preservation Program takes shape

The Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) received funding in the 2011-2013 supplemental transportation budget to help cities with urgent preservation needs. In response, TIB started the Arterial Preservation Program (APP), providing paving assistance for city-owned arterials in low tax-base urban cities. The Legislature appropriated ongoing program funding in the 2013-15 biennium.

APP eligible cities are those above 5,000 in population, with an assessed value below \$2 billion. The Board has the authority to increase the maximum assessed value as additional funds become available or as the program achieves certain performance targets. The APP provides assistance for resurfacing existing arterials, required ADA ramp upgrades, and minor associated sidewalk repairs.

Although this program offers cities critical preservation assistance, it is not enough to substitute for a city's own street maintenance program. Therefore, the program is limited to overlay in an effort to defray high cost preservation projects, allowing cities to concentrate limited resources on lower-cost preventative maintenance. WAC revisions for this program were adopted at the TIB Board meeting on September 27, 2013, and go into effect on November 1, 2013.



## Legislative update.

During the 2013 regular legislative session, TIB received appropriations in the transportation budget for ongoing programs. This included \$10 million from the Highway Safety Account for the Arterial Preservation Program, Small City Preservation Program, and Solid State Streetlight Demonstration Project.

**New transportation funding package.** During the 2013 regular session and the two special sessions that followed, a new transportation funding package was the center of discussion. Initially, TIB was included in the funding proposal, but cut out of later versions. In the end, this measure didn't pass the House or Senate.

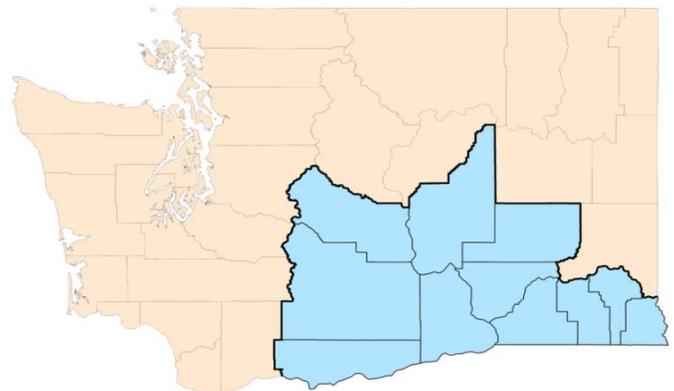
**Looking forward.** Both chambers are once again discussing passage of a transportation package, even as early as this November. Through mid-October, the Senate Transportation Committee Co-Chairs are hosting forums throughout the state to gather input from Washington residents on building a new transportation package. TIB has requested funding to offer major project grants in the Urban Arterial Program. To date, no additional funding for TIB has been included.

## New Transportation Engineers join TIB

Two new transportation engineers joined the TIB staff on the first of August.

**Chris Workman, P.E.** is the new Region Engineer for the Southeast Region, which includes Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Yakima and Walla Walla Counties.

**Christa Draggie, P.E.** is a Program Engineer, and will be working on special projects.



## Grant awards to be announced November 22, 2013.

TIB received \$340.7 million in funding requests for the 2013 grant cycle. Grant awards will be adopted at the TIB Board meeting in Bellevue on Friday, November 22, 2013 and posted on the TIB website that afternoon. A snapshot of applications received and funds requested is below.

Program	Applications Received	Approximate Funding Levels	Requested TIB Funds	Total Project Costs
Urban Arterial Program	107	\$84,000,000	\$252,614,795	\$509,448,736
Arterial Preservation Program	48	\$7,000,000	\$16,894,667	\$22,973,269
Urban Sidewalk Program	58	\$5,000,000	\$18,081,574	\$30,578,448
Small City Arterial Program	48	\$10,000,000	\$27,766,575	\$32,648,573
Small City Sidewalk Program	46	\$3,000,000	\$9,916,003	\$10,471,998
Small City Preservation Program	113	\$2,500,000	\$15,439,668	\$16,443,156
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>\$111,500,000</b>	<b>\$340,713,303</b>	<b>\$622,564,180</b>

## TIB begins effort to re-engineer Small City programs

With new Urban Arterial Program criteria complete, TIB will begin an effort to evaluate small city program delivery in winter 2014. Using Lean methods, this process improvement work will build from TIB successes with the Red Town Initiative and Small City Preservation Program that targets road maintenance opportunities based on economy of scale and performance targets. A key focus of a new funding methodology will include:

**Efficient delivery of transportation projects in small cities.** Small city projects are often small in scale and in remote locations, driving high unit costs. Funding larger comprehensive projects would drive unit costs down spreading TIB dollars further.

**Funding based on needs assessment.** A new methodology would evaluate community-wide town need and readiness, rather than one project at a time as is currently done through the grant application process.

**Agency readiness.** Agencies would need to ensure good utility condition and have other funding partners secured in advance of TIB investment.

**Planning for the future.** Grants given based on need rather than applications would allow cities to know years in advance when TIB will be funding the city's portfolio of projects.

## TIB Strategic Initiatives

**TIB working to secure major project funding.** TIB has been working with the Legislature and stakeholders in hopes of receiving additional funding for a few much larger grants (\$10 to \$15 million) per year. This would assist agencies in achieving full funding for large projects that cannot, or should not, be phased over time.

**Solid State Streetlight Demonstration Program.** TIB is demonstrating the feasibility and economic benefits of converting old street lighting to new, solid state LED lighting systems. After a significant research effort to develop study goals, evaluate potential demonstration sites, determine regulatory requirements and tariffs, and develop cost estimates and payback periods, the Board selected six demonstration sites for the study (Benton City, Blaine, Buckley, Coulee Dam, Palouse, and Ridgefield). Installation in several sites is expected before the end of the year, with the remainder taking place in 2014.

**New sustainability criteria on its way.** TIB has teamed up with the University of Washington to evaluate current sustainability criteria and deploy new criteria. Sustainability comprises 15 of 100 points in the UAP criteria set and all projects receive a score in this area. The category evaluates if agencies are using sustainable design and well-tested, reliable techniques that have a strong track record. Research and customer interviews were completed in the spring. We expect to rollout updated criteria for the 2014 Call for Projects.