VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2027 Active Transportation Grant Application Overview

Thank you for your interest in the Virginia Walkability Action Institute (VWAI) Active Transportation Grant (ATG). The ATG provides funding and capacity building through participation in the VWAI. The VWAI's goal is to increase the knowledge and skills gained through this participatory learning experience aimed at benefiting all participants, including public health and transportation professionals, academics, graduate students, volunteers, and advocates for walking, biking, taking public transit, and using micro-mobility devices (e.g., e-bikes and e-scooters), and as emerging leaders within local communities and the State of Virginia.

A. PURPOSE

Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHS), seeks applications for its 2027 cohort. The 2027 cohort will mark the nineth year of the VWAI.

The primary goal of the VWAI ATG is to prepare local and regional practitioners to pursue policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes and interventions to improve population health and reduce chronic disease risk and burden through increased access to physical activity and active transportation. The VWAI will expose participants to learning concepts that support equitable achievement of micro- and macro-level infrastructure strategies to increase access and physical activity at the local level. This is done by bringing together individuals and teams with representation from public health, planning, academia, community, and transportation and providing seed funding to implement quick build projects, training programs, active transportation resources (e.g., trail maps, resource guides, and more).

The ATG and VWAI will be facilitated by a cadre of national and statewide faculty and will support the Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking and Walkability and Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd Edition. The VWAI ATG also supports Virginia's collective efforts to create neighborhoods and environments that promote health and safety through walking and bicycling (Healthy People 2030). Participating individuals and teams will be engaged

through multiple methods (e.g., didactic, experiential, discussions, etc.) within a structured and practical learning atmosphere. The VWAI component of the ATG consists of in-person, on-going technical assistance, virtual networking and learning sessions, and project funding.

There is no application or enrollment fee for the VWAI. The 2027 cohort of the VWAI ATG program will accept up to five (5) teams (team sizes may range from one to six) and will award up to $34,000 in total project funds. Past projects funded have ranged from $2,000 to $10,000. Participants will also receive a travel scholarship to attend in-person meetings.

B. ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must be 18 years of age or older and reside and/or be employed or a student in Virginia. Applicants from a variety of fields are considered eligible, including professionals in transportation, engineering, planning, and public health. University/college graduate students studying in a related field are also eligible, as are university faculty/staff. Elected officials and community members working at non-profit organizations or in a volunteer capacity are also encouraged to apply. All ATG awardees must be able to commit to the VWAI for the entire duration of the program—from January through September 2027. The time commitment is roughly 10 hours a month.

We encourage participants to apply as part of a multi-person team (up to six (6) members), though participants are also eligible to apply as individuals. Multi-disciplinary teams are encouraged to apply as well. Teams that are representative of the communities they serve are highly encouraged to apply. Only one application is to be submitted for the entire team regardless of the number of team members.

For those applying as a team of one, please keep in mind that all teams, regardless of size, will be responsible for the same deliverables, including assignments, attending all sessions, and developing and implementing an action plan.

C. VWAI TIMELINE AND DESCRIPTION

Application Timeline

- The 2027 VWAI ATG Informational Webinar will be held on **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 3:00pm ET. Register here.**
- Completed applications are due **on Monday, November 30, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET.**

Program Schedule At-A-Glance

The VWAI ATG program runs from January through September 2026.

- An in-person, day-and-a-half grantee kick-off meeting will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2027 and Friday, January 22nd, in Richmond, VA
- Virtual office hours held monthly between January and August 2025 with a designated technical assistance provider
- Bi-monthly grantee check-ins
- Two technical assistance site visits
- In-person closing meeting in September 2027

VWAI Inclusions

Participants will receive:

- An invitation to attend all VWAI in-person meetings (opening and closing sessions), virtual technical assistance/office hours sessions, and bi-monthly grantee check-ins;
- Access to public health, walking, biking, public transit, and micro-mobility tools and resources;
- Access to on-going technical assistance during the VWAI through office hours;
- Travel scholarships to attend in-person sessions; and
- Project funding to implement a micro-level infrastructure project or program or develop a product related to their action plan.

Participant responsibilities

Individual and team participants will be responsible for:

- Attending and participating in all in-person meetings (opening and closing sessions), virtual technical assistance/office hours sessions, and bi-monthly grantee check-ins;
- Developing and implementing an action plan that is locally specific to improving walking, biking, public transit, and micro-mobility, and presenting the action plan to VWAI participants and faculty;
- Meeting with team members outside of planned office hours and bi-monthly check-ins to support the development and implementation of an action plan. Individual participants not part of teams will be responsible for meeting with their organization and local partners regarding their action plan;
- Utilizing project funding to support walking, biking, public transit and micro-mobility in targeted areas of their locality, and;
- Hosting and setting up cohort site visits, with support from VWAI program staff (if applicable).

Scholarships are available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for in-person sessions and site visits, including hotel and mileage reimbursement.

Key Outcomes for VWAI ATG Awardees

Participants will learn a variety of strategies for improving walking, biking, public transit,

and micro-mobility, including:

- Development of a standing, regional-level interdisciplinary working group on walking, biking, public transit and/or micro-mobility to plan and execute on interventions;
- Execution of Memoranda of Understanding, or comparable agreements, that frame specific and detailed collaboration between a variety of stakeholders;
- Facilitation of local and / or regional training sessions related to walking, biking, public transit and micro-mobility;
- Development and dissemination of a model zoning ordinance that supports compact, mixed use, walkable development for use by local communities;
- Implementation of Complete Streets (CS) policies for use by local departments of transportation (DOTs), such as CS roadway design guidelines and performance measures;
- Development and dissemination of market-based tools that support walking, biking, public transit and micro-mobility, such as parking policies, congestion pricing, high occupancy and toll lanes, inclusionary zone policies and incentives for private sector development, and workplace or community Transportation Demand Management policies;
- Development and implementation of prioritization and evaluation metrics for local health, safety, walking, biking, public transit and micro-mobility infrastructure projects;
- Development and implementation of a local pedestrian plan, trails plan, active transportation plan, transit plan, mobility or similar plan with a focus on specific project and policy recommendations and resources;
- Development and implementation of a technical assistance program for communities developing comprehensive plans, transportation, active transportation, mobility, and transit plans to assure an appropriate focus on public health and active transportation performance, and;
- Coordination of transportation projects, priorities, and funding with state DOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and communities with a focus on maximizing walking, cycling, public transit and micro-mobility support and performance.

D. SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected through a competitive application process. Space is limited five (5) teams (or up to thirty (30) participants) for this grant and training opportunity and $34,000 in project funding.

Applicants will be scored and ranked based on responses to the items listed below:

- Description of current community opportunities and challenges related to building healthier and safer environments for walking, biking, public transit and micro-mobility (20 points);
- Description of the history of addressing the community issue(s) through individual effort,

partnerships, and multi-sectoral collaborations (10 points);
- Description of how the VWAI will advance existing policies or planning documents adopted (10 points);
- Description of how you are addressing, or plan to address, a historic injustice at the neighborhood, community, city, county, region, or state level that impacts access to physical activity and mobility (20 points);
- Highly detailed action plan outlining key goals, objectives, and activities that will be implemented to address active transportation in their area (20 points) and
- Highly detailed budget that aligns with the key goals, objectives, and activities associated with the action plan (20 points).

E. CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or more information on VWAI, contact:

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