

STREETS FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

A Bloomberg Philanthropies grant opportunity for NACTO Members

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 crisis has amplified the existing crisis of racial inequity, and pandemic response is inextricably linked with the fight for racial justice. As cities begin to ease restrictions on non-essential travel and businesses, and implement projects and policies designed for recovery, we cannot return to a pre-pandemic normal that disinvested in communities and exacerbated economic and racial inequities. For a just recovery, we must center the needs of those disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's health, economic, and social impacts and seek equitable outcomes in transportation decision making.

During this crisis, many community organizations have been engaging with their members and neighborhoods and are clear on what they need to address issues such as healthcare access, food insecurity, lost wages, and limited mobility. Meanwhile, city staff are equipped to design and implement projects in the public right-of-way, as well as navigate government procedures and processes. Working together, city agencies and community-based organizations are well poised to navigate the tension between the speed required for emergency pandemic response, and the thoughtfulness required to ensure that rapid project delivery doesn't further perpetuate inequity or harm communities most in need of support.

NACTO, with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, is offering rapid response grant support to city transportation agencies that, in partnership with community-based organizations, are reimagining streets, implementing ideas, and supporting ongoing community efforts that meet the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19.

Eligible strategies will focus on supporting safe physical distancing while walking, biking, or taking transit; safe mobility for essential trips; and/or economic recovery for businesses and workers. All strategies should respond to the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's public health and economic impacts. While the deliverable of this grant is a project or program making physical or operational changes to the public right-of-way, successful proposals will provide a thorough description of a community partner-centered project model and analysis of how proposed strategies will provide benefits or alleviate burdens of specific populations and communities.

Examples include:

- Expanding sidewalks to allow physical distancing for people walking, queuing, and using wheelchairs
- Providing curbside and/or on-street space for aid distribution, testing, or other health-related COVID need
- Implementing temporary / pop-up bike lanes or adding additional protection for existing bike lanes
- Implementing tactical transit lanes or boarding spaces to allow more frequent transit service with physical distancing
- Creating outdoor dining or retail space to support safe operations for local businesses and entrepreneurs

We anticipate that each grantee will need to dedicate 4-5 hours of time over two months engaging with the grantee cohort, 3-5 hours participating in workshops / charrettes (as a listener and presenter), and 4-6 hours doing ongoing and final progress reporting on the project during the life of the grant. This amounts to approximately 15 hours of time over 2 months.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

We will award grants of \$25,000 to projects in **ten** NACTO member cities, and will base selections on the following criteria:

- Projects must be **directly and demonstrably related to COVID-19 response and recovery** efforts.
- Projects must **center the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's public health, social, and economic impacts**. Needs assessment can be based on existing (pre COVID-19) and/or new community engagement-based data. Recent and updated engagement specifically directed at the proposed project within the context of COVID-19 needs is strongly encouraged. See Section 4 of this application for further discussion of project engagement expectations.
- Projects must **demonstrate a high level of project readiness, evident in clear political support, strong community partnerships and/or project ownership, and a high likelihood of being implemented within the 2-month grant timeline**.
- Applicants must **demonstrate interest in and willingness to participate in a knowledge sharing cohort**. We anticipate that at a minimum the cohort of 10 grantees will convene by phone / video call for one hour every other week for 2 months. We also anticipate hosting 2-3 additional one hour workshops and charrettes on topics such as metrics collection, impact storytelling, and design, which we encourage the cohort to attend and participate in.

NACTO **will not** award grants to projects that do not align with our stated policies, including:

- Projects that increase capacity for or encourage increased travel in single occupancy vehicles.
- Projects that directly fund or require local law enforcement to manage public space.
- Projects that reduce the availability of options for people walking, biking, or rolling.
- Projects that diminish access for people with disabilities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

NACTO member cities and transit agencies may apply. Each application must identify the city government agency serving as Lead Applicant with oversight of the project. The Fiscal Agent who receives funds may be the City, a city-affiliated 501(c)3 (e.g., Fund for City of ____), or an experienced fiscal sponsor (e.g., local community foundation).

We will select cities that represent a diverse range of population sizes, geographic locations, and transportation challenges and opportunities. That said, we are aware that cities with populations under 500,000 have not received direct federal aid during the pandemic, **so we plan to prioritize cities with populations of less than 500,000 that haven't received federal aid, as well as larger cities targeting interventions in neighborhoods that have historically and continue to be underinvested.** Each NACTO member may only submit one application.

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE

We have designed this application to take **no more than 10 person hours total**, including writing, review, and approval. If you are finding that this application is taking significantly more time, please send an email to covidgrant@nacto.org letting us know.

The deadline for this application is 8:00pm ET on Friday, July 10, 2020. Please submit your completed application and any other relevant documents to covidgrant@nacto.org with the subject “[Your city / agency] Application for Pandemic Response and Recovery Grant.”

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Demonstration of existing/ongoing community partnerships	25 points
Demonstration of need	25 points
Demonstration of impact	20 points
Implementation readiness (including budget, timeline)	20 points
Political support	10 points
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TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE	100 points

1 PROJECT TEAM

Each application must identify the city government agency serving as Lead Applicant with oversight of the project. If the Lead Applicant is unable to receive funds directly, provide the name of the affiliated 501(c)3 or experienced fiscal partner that will serve as a fiscal agent to receive funds.

Lead Applicant

City / agency:

Department or division:

Primary Contact for Lead Applicant

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Fiscal Agent

Legal name:

Tax ID:

Website:

Primary Contact for Fiscal Agent

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

2 PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title:

Project Category (select one):

Providing curbside and/or on-street space accessible for people without cars for aid distribution, testing, or other health-related COVID need

Building bike lanes, or adding additional protection for existing bike lanes

Building dedicated transit facilities (bus lanes, boarding islands, or other improvements to increase reliability and decrease travel time)

Expanding sidewalks for people to walk and roll while maintaining physical distance

Creating space for people to queue outside of businesses, public/social service providers, etc.

Building parklets or spaces for restaurants, street vendors, or retail businesses in the roadbed or on the sidewalk

Closing streets to all or most motor vehicle traffic

Building combined bike and pedestrian facilities

Converting temporary facilities of any kind to permanent or semi-permanent installations

Other:

Top Priority

What is the primary goal of your proposed project? Indicate what need(s) it addresses, and the primary beneficiaries. (max. 100 words)

Note: Use this space to describe what the project can facilitate (e.g., safer travel for essential workers), rather than the implementation of the project (e.g., build a bike lane, expand sidewalks).

Project Description

Provide a brief summary of your proposed project, including what community-based organizations will be engaged with implementation and how it relates to your city's broader rapid response to the needs of people disproportionately harmed by COVID-19's public health, social, and economic impacts. (max. 200 words)

3 PROJECT ENGAGEMENT

Please answer one, but not both, of the questions below, depending on the scope of your project.

If your project is location specific (e.g., specific street closures), briefly describe your agency's experience partnering with organizations and stakeholders based in the neighborhood(s) where this project is being implemented. Applicants are strongly encouraged to describe the role of community partners in the implementation of the proposed project and include any stated needs and ideas from community-based organizations in the project area for addressing COVID-related challenges. (max. 200 words)

If your project is citywide (e.g., an open air restaurant program where any restaurant or street vendor in any neighborhood can apply), briefly describe your agency's experience partnering with relevant communities, businesses, and specific community partners who are historically underrepresented in the transportation project planning process and how your agency will share decision-making power with community-based organizations to identify, implement, and support impactful project ideas. (max. 200 words)

4 PROJECT IMPACT

What specific measurements (e.g., pre/post data) could you use to determine success for this project? What else do you expect to learn or improve along the way (e.g., new agency procedures, interagency or community partner relationships, public engagement techniques)? How do these measurements provide a road map to achieving the project's primary goal specified in this proposal? (max. 150 words)

Note: This question is intended to help you think about how you might measure success. You do not need to already be collecting these metrics, nor will we hold you to these specific metrics. We will dedicate time to supporting you as you identify the best metrics for success for your particular project, and how to collect them given the constraints presented by COVID-19.

5 PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE

Describe your overall project timeline, including what will be implemented in 2 months, and the project duration. (max. 100 words)

Describe how the \$25,000 grant will be used (e.g., materials, staff time, outreach, etc.). (max. 100 words)

6 POLITICAL SUPPORT

Describe the political support for your agency's efforts to develop projects in close partnership with local decision-makers and community-based leaders or organizations. (max. 200 words)

Please include evidence (links to articles, Tweets, etc. or documents / letters) of demonstrated political support for either this specific project or previous efforts to develop projects like this in close partnership with community based organizations. Include links below and/or attachments at the end of the application.

7 NACTO COHORT

NACTO is seeking grantees that are interested in and willing to engage in a cohort of other grantees to share knowledge / questions / lessons learned about rapid project development throughout the life of the grant. Why is your city interested in participating in a cohort of other NACTO members on this topic? (max. 100 words)

END OF APPLICATION