

## Federal Grant Solicitations Are Now Open

Oct. 1 marked the beginning of the Federal fiscal year. And with that, several infrastructure grants have been opened for APO member jurisdictions.

The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) is the most notable of these solicitations. This program provides funding that can be used by states, counties, and cities for projects to “preserve and improve the conditions and performance” on any Federal-aid roadway, bridge, and bicycle and pedestrian facility. In years past, this program has provided approximately \$2 million in Federal funding each year for various transportation projects across the Saint Cloud metro.

Previously funded projects through this program include the expansion of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street S in Saint Cloud, the resurfacing roadwork for Stearns CSAH 75 from Old Collegeville Road (in Saint Joseph) to 15<sup>th</sup> Street N (Waite Park), and the reconstruction of Benton Drive from Summit Avenue to US 10 in Sauk Rapids. In addition to the STBGP, APO member jurisdictions have also been encouraged to apply for Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. This program specifically provides Federal funds to states, counties, and cities for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along with environmental mitigation and habitat protection specifically related to highway construction. Funding for this program is competitive across all of MnDOT District 3 (approximately 12 counties).

Projects within the APO’s planning area that have been funded through TA include the shared use path constructed along Benton CSAH 3 (Second Street N) from Benton Drive to US 10 in Sauk Rapids, the shared use path constructed along Stearns CSAH 2 (Minnesota Street) in Saint Joseph, and the Lake Wobegon Trail extension from Saint Joseph to Waite Park.

Funding for both of these solicitations will be available in 2026.

All APO member jurisdictions are encouraged to apply for both programs.

## Looking Ahead 2050 Updates

APO staff have concluded the visioning process for the next long-range, multimodal surface transportation plan.

Over the next several weeks, APO staff will be working through the responses received through SurveyMonkey along with responses from the APO’s Regional Household Travel Survey to categorize these responses and develop the region’s future transportation priorities.

Additional public input opportunities will be available in early 2022.

## Bicycle Friendly Community

**The City of Saint Cloud has been recertified as a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists!**

Earlier this year, the City of Saint Cloud applied for the League of American Bicyclists' prestigious Bicycle Friendly Community award. It has long been a goal for Saint Cloud to be a recognized leader for the work their transportation professionals and local citizens have put in to make the community more accessible by bike. Today, they are proud to be part of the nearly 500 communities across the United States that are transforming America one Bicycle Friendly Community at a time.

People across the community are biking more than ever to commute to essential jobs, trips to the store, and recreation. The Bronze BFC award recognizes Saint Cloud's commitment to improving conditions for all people who bike through investments in bike education programs, bike events that promote and encourage people to choose biking, pro-bike policies, and bike infrastructure.

## APO Welcomes New Planning Technician

The APO is proud to introduce you to our newest staff member, James Stapfer. He is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College (Class of 2021) where he majored in Statistics and attained minors in Mathematics and Economics. While at Gustavus, James was on the Ultimate Frisbee team.



James is joining the APO as our Planning Technician where he will be responsible for collecting and analyzing transportation performance data from across the region, as well as creating maps and geospatial analysis. He will also be working with our travel demand model to develop forecasts of future traffic on area roadways. While from the North Metro, James said that he is looking forward to helping the Saint Cloud region grow and become even more successful.

## Save the Date

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) will be meeting on **Thursday, January 27, 2022**, from 2:30-3:30 PM. in the Bremer Community Room at the Great River Regional Library in Saint Cloud.

We wish you a Happy Holidays and wonderful New Year!

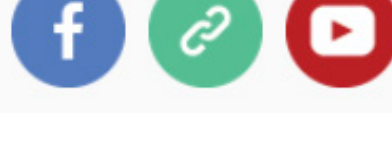


### Get Involved with Saint Cloud APO



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 City of Sauk Rapids  
 City of Waite Park  
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