



Leadership for Transit Streets: City Program Accelerator

Application Letters Due February 22nd, 2016

The application period is now open for the Transit Program Accelerator, an exciting new initiative to implement the concepts of the NACTO *Transit Street Design Guide*. Beginning in Spring 2016, NACTO will work with three cities that have demonstrated emerging leadership and a commitment to designing streets for transit, holding two-day transit street design roadshows and working with transit and transportation departments throughout the year as they prepare to transform an existing corridor into a great transit street.

All NACTO members are invited to apply with a transit agency partner. Cities will be selected through a competitive application process. Cities are especially encouraged to apply if they are approaching a transit street redesign with design elements new to the city or entirely novel; developing projects integrating transit with bikeways and/or public space; working on low-cost, high-impact improvements at a large scale; and working on an interagency basis on design related to system-wide strategies, such as all-door boarding.

Through the partnership and support of TransitCenter, the City Program Accelerator will be offered free of charge to selected cities. Cities will be expected to provide in-kind resources such as training venues, staff time, and project-related materials for charrettes and events.

Envisioning Transformation

NACTO will work with each city at both an executive and staff level, conducting multi-agency visioning discussions with local leadership and peer city practitioners, to identify strengths, key areas for collaboration, and opportunities for strong transit street design projects. These meetings will be supported by peer learning sessions focused on program and project management and design topics related to city streets.

Building Knowledge & Capacity

Each participating city will host an expanded two-day NACTO Roadshow, in which experienced peer city representatives and NACTO staff will deliver hands-on trainings on the *Transit Street Design Guide*, sharing practical knowledge and building local capacity. These trainings will include site visits with staff and leadership, internal visioning sessions, technical sessions, and management-related sessions, and will be capped with a charrette session supporting the development of a key project.

Getting to Implementation

The charrette sites and strategies identified during the Roadshow will become the centerpiece of follow-up planning, including peer design review by NACTO cities and staff. **The goal of this process will be to generate a transit street design project, shepherding it through the conceptual design phase, with a project implementation strategy.**



Applying

By February 22nd, 2016, cities should provide:

- 1) The names, titles, and contact information of lead staff at the applying agencies.
- 2) Brief (one page or shorter) letters of interest from the directors of the applying city street and transit agencies, or a joint letter of interest.
- 3) A concise one- to two-page application describing the city's transit-related goals. Key questions to answer are:
 - Describe the commitment of your agency's leadership and those of key partner agencies. Refer to major relevant city policies or plans (e.g. modal goals, sustainability goals, economic development strategy, transportation plan)?
 - What are some of the challenges and opportunities related to transit street design? These might be technical or non-technical areas, such as the nature of local dialogue, competing needs, or changes in ridership and demand. What is needed to achieve the city's policy goals?
 - What do leaders and staff, in and out of government, need and want to learn about transit streets?
 - Briefly describing a potential project site, or the type of site of interest for transit design, is helpful in understanding city goals and needs. If a potential site or sites have been identified, please briefly describe the site or opportunities present. If not, please describe how you might choose such a site, or general transit street conditions and challenges.
 - Who are the key stakeholders to be involved in trainings and discussions?
- 4) No other materials should be prepared for this application, but optionally, links or attachments of other existing material describing the city's agencies, existing programs, or past/future projects can be provided.

Applications will be reviewed and rated by the NACTO Board or its appointees, with the advice of NACTO and TransitCenter staff. (Board members may apply and recuse themselves from rating their own applications).

Successful applicant cities will demonstrate:

- The potential to implement a transformative transit street project (50 points)
- A high level of commitment to the goal of implementing a transit street design project in a short timeline (25 points)
- Demonstrated relevance or need for training (25 points)

Cities will be notified of decisions by March 9th, 2016.