Program Purpose
To help meet the current and anticipated future need for walkable place-making in the WAMPO region with a focused program that will promote vibrancy, community, and economic vitality today and over the long term. Planning Walkable Places is a grant program for non-capital planning projects.

Objectives
- Create pilot projects that can be evaluated by all member jurisdictions and members of the public.
- Enhance community identity by helping to create core areas and Main Streets with distinctive characteristics.
- Promote pedestrian safety.
- Enhance or restore the character and charm of traditionally walkable areas.
- Support a “sense of community” in small and large cities.
- Provide a reasonable opportunity for participation for all members.
- Enhance the quality of community of events and help keep up with rapidly increasing rates of attendance.
- Support efforts to enhance economic vitality and tourism that rely on walkable areas and foot traffic for attractions and retail.

Contacts
Please submit any questions, comments or request for additional information to any of the following:

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# Example Eligible Activities List

Projects will likely include multiple activities and may involve different stages of the planning process. Any project may include one or several of the following elements. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

- Development of design standards or design guidelines that promote walkable streets and land development
- Development of zoning overlays that will encourage/work with walking as a primary mode of transportation (Historic District, Arts District, Downtown, etc.)
- Downtown or Main Street rehabilitation studies that aim at restoring walkability to an area or street where it was once prominent
- Educational programs for enhancing pedestrian safety and awareness
- Walkability audits or accessibility studies that assess existing conditions, identifying needs and barriers; any other types of inventories or surveys that emphasize walkability; identification of candidate areas for improving walkability
- Development of Active Transportation plans that may also incorporate bicycling (must include an explicit land-use or place-making element)
- Corridor studies or plans that emphasize walkability
- Citizen/stakeholder participation activities such as surveys or facilitated events that will inform the planning of walkable places
- Tourism studies or plans that emphasize the role of walkability
• Signage and wayfinding for pedestrians
• Parking studies and plans
• Transit studies in which the walk portion of transit is prominent or which include a place-making element, such as a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan
• Development of Safe Routes to School-type plans or design guidelines to make walking to school practical and safe
• Creation of pedestrian plans for activity centers such as event venues, schools, or employment centers
• Studies or planning that will create/identify areas where walking/foot traffic will enhance the local economy
• Traffic calming studies
• Temporary demonstration projects that will introduce new walkability practices or project types to the region
• Other planning components such as market assessment, exploring financing options, creating multi-year phasing plans with associated costs
• Pedestrian plans for connecting activity centers

Ineligible Activities

• PE – Preliminary Engineering of capital projects is ineligible.
• PS&E - “Plans, Specifications, and Estimates” (as understood in a capital construction context) activities are not eligible.
• Any plans or studies that do not specify a connection with walking/walkability.
• Construction.

Eligible Recipients

All WAMPO member jurisdictions are eligible to compete for projects. At this time, non-profit organizations and school districts are not eligible.

Public Participation

A public participation process is a required element of all federally funded projects. Project sponsors must provide early and ongoing opportunity for public comment throughout the project development process.
Considerations
Because rapidly rising attendance at special events has been identified as a regional pedestrian concern, projects aimed at improving pedestrian accommodations in and around community event areas will receive first consideration.

Safety is a priority for the region, and proposals with a prominent pedestrian safety element (including educational programs) will receive special consideration.

Proposed projects should support and enhance local context such as historic small town character.

Proposed projects that enhance, support, implement, or integrate with a larger community plan will receive additional consideration.

This program is not intended to replace local planning efforts. WAMPO’s focus is on the region, so projects should be regionally significant. Projects substantially within ½-mile of regionally significant roads (facilities eligible for WAMPO funding) or prominent activity centers such as schools, gathering places, major employment centers, attractions, downtowns, or ‘Main Streets’ will automatically be considered regionally significant.

Although the conceptual planning of individual facilities such as shared use paths may qualify for funding, the real intent of this program is place-making. As such, proposals that emphasize the connection between land use and transportation to create walkable places will receive added consideration.

Requirements
In order to receive funding, a proposed project must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Proposed by an eligible project sponsor (a WAMPO member jurisdiction)
- The application clearly explains how the proposed project will enhance walkability as a mode of transportation
- The proposed project includes a meaningful public involvement process
- The proposal does NOT include ineligible activities (PE, PS&E)
- If awarded, work will begin on the project no later than February 2018

Applicants that do not meet all criteria will be given an opportunity to review and correct their proposals prior to the application deadline; those that cannot meet all criteria by the deadline will not be awarded funds.
Review Committee
The committee will meet approximately twice during the summer months to provide feedback and helpful suggestions to project sponsors and to ensure that proposed projects meet requirements.

WAMPO staff will conduct communications with the project sponsors and inform them of the Committee’s decisions. Staff will also help to ensure that proposals meet all requirements.

Deadlines

**Mid May**
- Call for Projects Period Opens

**June 2017**
- Mid-June: Call for Projects Period Ends
- Late June: Review Committee meetings start

**July 2017**
- Review committee meetings end and finalize balance available
- Transportation Advisory Committee votes on projects recommended for funding by the Review committee

**August 2017**
- TPB votes on TAC’s recommendation of projects to fund
- Awards announced

**Sept – Dec 2017**
- Successful applicants will be asked to develop a more detailed scope and project timeline
- Consultant procurement process

Funding
In accordance with federal policy, a project may receive a maximum of 80 percent of its funds from WAMPO programs. A 20 percent local match will need to be provided by the project sponsor. Projects may be funded below the 80 percent maximum if the Review Committee recommends a different level of federal funding.

Supporting Documents
To help with clarity, the following additional support documents will be available:

- Visual Guide to Pedestrian Planning Projects (includes sample cost estimates and scopes)
- PE versus Conceptual Project Guidance
- Project Submission Templates
- Project Application