

Multimodal Planning Office

Multimodal Transportation Resources Division • Bureau of Environment and Planning

Walkways, bikeways, and transit connections play an important role in providing safe transportation choices for people across Tennessee. Active transportation, such as walking, bicycling, and transit use provide broader benefits to the state such as reducing impacts on roadways, mitigating traffic congestion, improving economic opportunities, improving air quality, and contributing to public health. Moreover, Tennessee's rapidly urbanizing areas as well as small towns and rural communities have displayed significantly growing demand for infrastructure that support active transportation choices for commuting, shopping, and recreation.

Programs

The Multimodal Planning Office oversees 36 projects worth \$29M, including Multimodal Access Grant projects for Distressed and At-Risk communities, Pedestrian Road Safety Initiative projects, and a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality awarded project.

Multimodal Access Grant

- Competitive TDOT Grant for multimodal infrastructure budgeted at \$18M per year.
- 151 awarded projects since 2014 representing \$127M in funding.

Pedestrian Road Safety Initiative

- Spot safety improvements, funded with federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) with approximately \$10M budgeted each year (TDOT currently required to spend 15% overall HSIP on Vulnerable Road Users due to high fatality rate).
- 23 active projects since 2020 representing \$14.8M in funding.

Project Reviews

Every TDOT project is reviewed by the office during the initial Transportation Investment Report (TIR) or Project Delivery Network (PDN) Stage 0 as well as Environmental Study Review (ESR) during the NEPA phase to check for compliance with the TDOT Multimodal Access policy, standard drawings, and local and state planning documents. During the past year, the office has reviewed:

- 515 Environmental Study Reviews
- 29 Transportation Investment Reports
- 19 Local Programs Design Plans

Planning Reviews and Other Activities

The Multimodal Planning Office reviews TIP/STIP modifications for FTA funding, long-range TIP plans, and MPO Long Range Transportation Plans. The office also reviews local multimodal plans, TDOT transportation planning grants, corridor studies and other technical studies on an ad hoc basis. In addition to providing technical support to stakeholders and public inquiries, the office is also engaged in research projects with the TDOT Research Office, sits on several AASHTO committees and over a dozen state, local and regional planning committees. The office works in collaboration with other divisions and agencies to find opportunities to support action items in the Statewide Active Transportation Plan, such as the recently announced Complete Streets Academy technical assistance award.

Guiding Plans and Policies

- Multimodal Access Policy (2014)
- TDOT Multimodal Standard Roadway Drawings (continually updated)
- Multimodal Project Scoping Manual (2018)
- TDOT Roadway Design Guidelines – Section IX Multimodal Design (2018)
- Tennessee Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2020)
- TN Statewide Active Transportation Plan (2021)

Staffing

- 1 Civil Engineering Manager 2
- 1 Transportation Planning Manager 1
- 3 Active Transportation Planners (Program Monitor Class)