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AMP Technical Assistance Program
Frequently Asked Questions

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What is City Thread?

City Thread is a national, non-profit organization working to connect people and communities. The City Thread team combines 50 years of experience in urban planning, marketing, communications, public participation, fundraising, grant making, community engagement, strategic planning, and campaign management.

We collaborate with diverse teams of elected officials, city staff, community leaders, funders, and residents to identify problems, brainstorm solutions, and develop a shared vision to accelerate mobility and place-based projects. Our custom strategies prioritize local coalition-building to develop organizations and launch campaigns that achieve success for everyone.

If you have questions about this program or the application process, please email info@citythread.org so we can determine the best member of our team to answer your specific question.

What is the Accelerated Mobility Playbook (AMP)?

Transportation, mobility, and access improvements offer cost-effective solutions to the challenges cities face, but traditional methods of planning, project development, community engagement, and messaging often leave residents searching for better answers, and the resulting projects rarely achieve their desired intent. Improvements to the built environment take too long to implement, infrastructure is disconnected and incomplete, and poor messaging around projects creates fear and distrust, empowering a vocal minority of opposition.

City Thread's community-based approach to mobility programs is rooted in the development of diverse coalitions that partner with local governments to achieve shared goals and build momentum for future success.

The Accelerated Mobility Playbook provides a roadmap for successful project delivery, network-focused implementation plans, and authentic community engagement that showcases existing popular support and enables leaders to get ahead of opposition and neutralize misinformation.

What does the AMP help communities achieve?

The Accelerated Mobility Playbook is a guide to help cities accelerate implementation of their planned mobility networks, create effective partnerships, and proactively out-communicate any opposition. The AMP benchmarks any city's capacity and implementation readiness against global best practices, and recommends tested solutions to overcome common challenges that delay projects and impede progress.

The AMP outlines opportunities to improve mobility network implementation methods, build lasting and effective partnerships with community stakeholders, and amplify existing public support for changes to a city's streets. The recommendations include suggested campaign objectives, budget recommendations, and next steps for community action.

The AMP is both an audit of a city's current state of practice and an action plan for improved implementation and partnership.

What do you mean by "mobility networks"?

A mobility network is a completely connected, comfortable system of sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, transit stops, and accessible public spaces that allow people to travel safely, comfortably, and reliably without using a car.

No one has to navigate incomplete connections or be forced into unsafe and confusing situations. Everyone, no matter if they bike, walk, scoot, drive, or use an assisted mobility device, can get where they are going with the greatest safety and the least amount of hassle because everyone's traffic flow needs are met through careful planning and smart construction.

The street network allows drivers to travel anywhere in their community without needing to think much about where they are going or how they will get there. Complete mobility networks offer the same flexibility to people who don't drive.

Cities have been building bits and pieces of networks for years, now it's time to fill in the missing links and complete the connections.

Are there examples of successful AMP implementation?

Beginning in 2019, five U.S. cities pioneered the use of the Accelerated Mobility Playbook to significantly advance the construction of their bicycle networks.

Collectively, Austin, TX; Denver, CO; New Orleans, LA; Pittsburgh, PA; and Providence, RI constructed 335 miles of new, safe, and connected bikeways - moving projects from concept to completion in only 24 months. They are now on pace to fully build their planned networks 25 years earlier than expected.

Today, 10 additional U.S. communities are utilizing the AMP framework to accelerate the implementation of local mobility plans.

What is the AMP Technical Assistance Program?

The AMP Technical Assistance Program is a grant-supported initiative of City Thread that will help cities to accelerate the implementation of mobility infrastructure.

City Thread will select these cities from a competitive application process and provide an assessment of a city's current state of practice and an action plan for improved implementation and partnership.

What are the benefits of participating in the program?

Selected cities receive a robust set of deliverables and opportunities, including:

- A **Readiness Assessment** report will detail the results of an audit conducted by City Thread to benchmark the current mobility environment. Understanding the current practice of project delivery, capacity of city staff and local partners, backing from elected leadership, intensity of community support, and philanthropic engagement allows City Thread to identify challenges that will affect accelerated implementation, the creation of effective partnerships, and the ability to proactively out-communicate any opposition.
- An **Accelerated Mobility Action Plan** will outline opportunities to improve mobility network implementation methods, build lasting and effective partnerships with community stakeholders, and amplify existing public support for changes to the city's streets. The recommendations will include suggested campaign objectives, budget recommendations, and next steps for community action.
- City Thread partners will deliver a **final presentation** summarizing findings and recommendations to interested and invited stakeholders. This presentation will use an interactive format and include opportunities for discussion among attendees.
- Leaders from each AMP Technical Assistance grant city will be invited to participate in an **in-person gathering** of all AMP program participants in fall 2024 (exact dates TBD). This gathering will include an opportunity to compare achievements against other cities, allow leaders to learn from one another, and consider best practices utilized in cities that have already implemented the AMP program locally.

How can I apply for funding?

The application and grant guidelines are available for download here ([AMP Technical Assistance Grant - City Thread](#)). Completed submissions should be emailed to Zoe Kircos (zoe@citythread.org) with the name of your city and AMP Grant in the subject line (ex: Funville AMP Grant). Please submit the administrative information and application narrative as one document with supporting documents attached.

My city is just starting to think about mobility networks - we haven't built much infrastructure, but are experiencing some momentum locally. Can we still apply?

Yes! The AMP Technical Assistance Program is intended to support cities no matter their starting place. This program is adaptable and supports a variety of solutions reflecting the different needs and contexts in cities of all shapes and sizes.

Who can apply for funding?

Applications must be led by a two-party team representing an active partnership between local government and a community-based organization.

One of the lead applicants must be a representative of a local government authority, and the second lead applicant should represent any non-profit, philanthropic, business, advocacy, or other community-based organization working to improve mobility, transportation, access, or place-based improvements.

What are the requirements of participating in the program?

Applications require a partnership between a city department staff member and a local community-based organization lead. These AMP program leads must be able to:

- Assist with making introductions and scheduling interviews needed to conduct the assessment, including with other city staff, community partners, elected leadership, and the philanthropic community.
- Attend and participate in regular check-in meetings hosted by City Thread to discuss project status, needs, and updates. City Thread will provide agendas and, where appropriate, written guidance or updates before each meeting.
- To the best of their ability, city staff will provide accurate and up-to-date data needed to perform an analysis of mobility network readiness, mobility planning, staffing capacity, and construction feasibility.
- Assist with the final presentation of findings, including the scheduling, hosting, and invitation of key stakeholders.
- Secure a local cash match of \$15,000 USD.

Is a local funding match required?

Yes. A required local cash match of \$15,000 USD ensures that City Thread can deliver the robust set of deliverables outlined.

As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, City Thread has secured grant funding to offset the full cost of the program (\$50,000 USD) and provide this assistance at below-market rates.

What kinds of funding can make up the local matching requirement?

The local match funding of \$15,000 USD (33%) must be provided as a cash match. In-kind donations, services, or staff support are not eligible as a local match.

Applicants can utilize a variety of funding sources for the local match:

- Grant funding from local philanthropic organizations
- One or more major donors
- Fundraising campaigns through crowdfunding sites such as ioby.org
- Events, campaigns or other fundraising strategies
- Existing city or partner funds

City Thread is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If your funding source(s) are diverse or unique, talk to us about how to set up the contribution.