2023 APPLICATION GUIDEBOOK

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM GOALS

- Encourage the co-location of diverse housing, employment, recreational, and cultural amenities at major transit, local, and regional centers for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels;

- Enhance access to a range of travel modes including transit, roadways, walking, and biking and increase connectivity and improve access for all users; and,

- Foster public-private partnerships and sustained community support through an outreach process that promotes the involvement of all stakeholders, including community-based organizations and those who are historically underserved or underrepresented.

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- **Reimbursable grant program**

- **ARC pays up to 80% of the study amount**

- **Applicant must be a CID or local government**

- **Total grant funds available - $1.8 Million**

STUDY CHARACTERISTICS

STUDY TYPES

CATALYTIC

FOCUS ON VISIONS

Study funds may be used to create long term master plans or visioning plans for an LCI area.

TACTICAL

FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

Study funds may be used to prepare detailed studies that foster specific LCI plan implementation for an LCI area that has a completed catalytic plan.

What is a Catalytic LCI Study?

CATALYTIC

- Creating a mater plan for an existing or future planned transit node.

- Developing a vision for the growth of a community's downtown district.

- Envisioning a multimodal and multijurisdictional corridor with nodal development.

- Each Catalytic Study contains an implementation strategy, including a 100-day Action Plan, 5 Year Work Program, implementation partners, and funding sources.

What is a Tactical LCI Study?

TACTICAL

- **Undertaking a detailed feasibility study for a trail proposed in a Catalytic LCI study.**

- **Revising development regulations to incorporate changes proposed in the Catalytic LCI study.**

- **Creating detailed right-of-way design and cost estimates for a streetscape concept proposed in the Catalytic LCI study.**

- **Providing specific site-level design and transportation recommendations.**
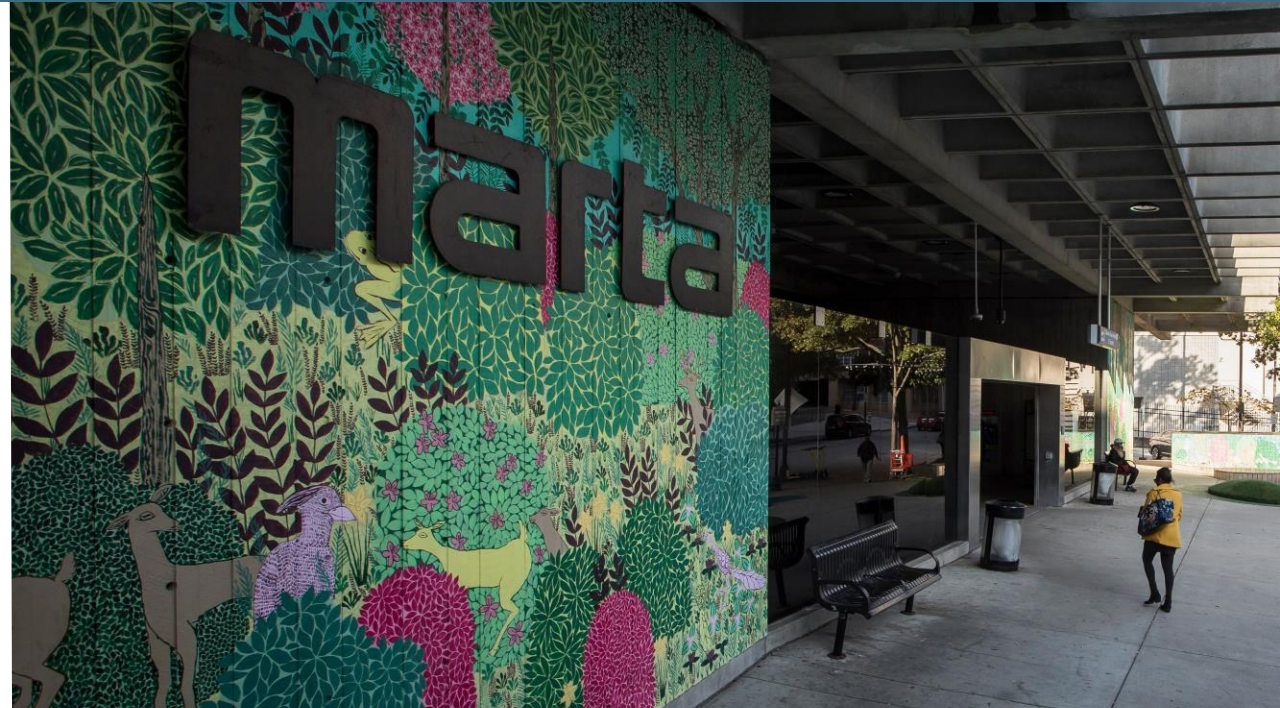
STUDY LOCATIONS

Study Areas need to meet one of the following:

MAIN STREETS & DOWNTOWNS

These areas are the region's traditional Main Street and downtown communities. These are identified on The Atlanta Region's Plan Unified Growth Policy Map.

TRANSIT AREAS

These are areas that have a direct connection to the high-capacity regional transit system. These centers will have a fixed-guideway or bus rapid transit stop existing or planned within ¼-mile of the LCI study area.

STUDY PRIORITIES

LCI PRIORITY ISSUES

How does the study advance the following in the LCI area?

Each application should state how the requested study will address one or more of the following critical issues:

- **Affordable/Diverse Housing**

- **Creative Placemaking**

- **Green Infrastructure**

- **Smart City Technology**

HOUSING

- **How will the study address housing challenges identified by the [REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY](#) for the area?**

- **What [HOUSING SOLUTIONS](#) will be explored further?**

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

- **What type of investments are you looking to make?**

- **How will the arts community be involved in the planning process?**

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

- **What climate concerns do you want to address? What innovations do you want to pursue?**

- **How will the study incorporate green infrastructure or other climate resiliency components into transportation projects?**

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SMART CITY TECHNOLOGY

- **What specific issues will be addressed by technology?**

- **How will technology enhance mobility and safety in the study area?**

- **How could technology be integrated with other projects?**

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Housing

Creative Placemaking

Smart City Technology

Green Infrastructure

Proposed streetscape improvements and development along Capitol Avenue.
Artistic illustration of planning recommendations for the Turner Field Stadium Neighborhood Livable Centers Initiative.

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NEW IN 2023

TRANSIT CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

We will continue to incorporate Transit Creative Placemaking into 2023 Studies. Applicants will need a letter of support from the transit agency.

PILOT LCI COMMUNITY VEHICLE CHARGING

In 2022, we began accepting applications to pilot how to prepare LCI areas for community vehicle charging. Town Center CID received the first grant for this purpose.

2023 LCI Studies are expected to illustrate how Electric Vehicle Charging can be incorporated throughout the study area.

PILOT LCI COMMUNITY VEHICLE CHARGING

- Existing LCI communities may apply for this pilot.

- Only LCI eligible applicants can apply.

- Project can be incorporated into other studies or be a stand-alone study process.

- Projects should identify infrastructure needs, location(s), and other related planning for Community Vehicle Charging.
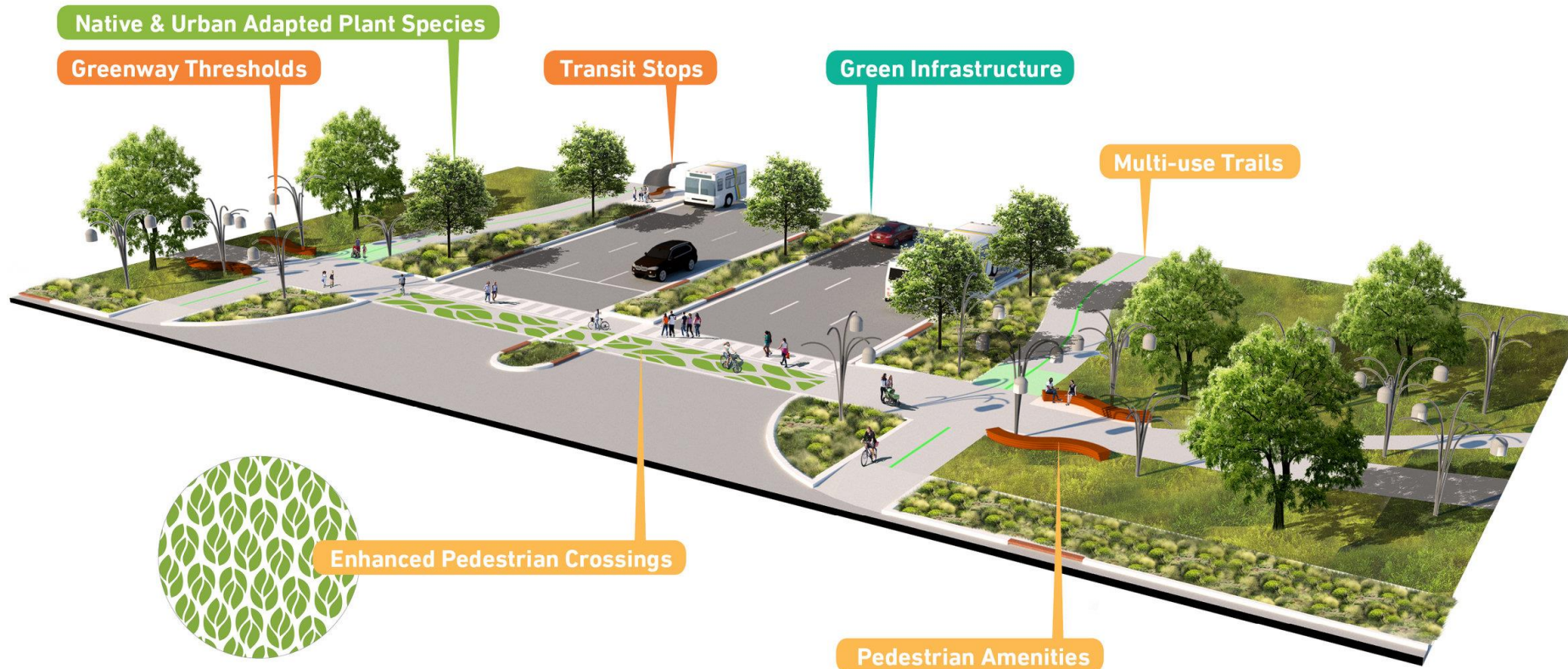
PROJECT EXAMPLES

NORTH POINT CREATIVE PLACEMAKING PLAN

North Point PARKway
Greenway Crossings

This plan provided a creative placemaking plan for the North Point LCI Area which included implementation strategies for private and public investments.

Year Funded/Cost:
2018/$95,500

Sponsor:
City of Alpharetta

Lead Consultant:
MKSK

View the Plan

Native & Urban Adapted Plant Species

Greenway Thresholds

Transit Stops

Green Infrastructure

Multi-use Trails

Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings

Pedestrian Amenities

EAST LAKE MARTA STATION TOD PLAN

This plan developed a TOD plan for the station, including a potential development scenario, creative placemaking strategies, and transportation investments.

Funding Year/Cost:
2018/$125,000

Sponsors:
City of Atlanta, City of Decatur, & MARTA

Lead Consultant:
TSW

View the Plan

COLLEGE AVENUE ROUNDABOUT & ROAD DIET FEASIBILITY STUDY

December Design Day

Tactical LCI Plan

This study examined the feasibility of a roundabout and road diet along College Avenue, which led to a funded LCI transportation project. It included a temporary road diet installation to examine impacts.

Year Funded/Cost:
2014/$62,500

Sponsor:
City of Avondale Estates

Lead Consultant:
Nelson\Nygaard

View the Study

SOUTH DOWNTOWN STATIONS CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

This study examined opportunities to incorporate creative placemaking and safety improvements for the Garnett and Five Points MARTA Stations.

Funding Year/Cost:
2014/$87,500

Sponsor:
Central Atlanta Progress

Lead Consultant:
TSW

View the Plan

BUCKHEAD HOUSING AND COMMUTING STUDY

This study examined opportunities to incorporate housing strategies within the Buckhead LCI to improve transportation options.

Funding Year/Cost:
2018/$120,000

Sponsor:
Livable Buckhead

Lead Consultant:
HR&A Advisors

View the Study

MARKET OVERVIEW | DEFINING THE STUDY AREA

The housing study area was drawn using a larger catchment area that incorporates single-family and multifamily units accessible by existing bus routes.

Using available data sources, HR&A created a profile of existing supply for the census tracts in the study area, accounting for all housing supply that could be potentially reached by existing bus and MARTA routes into the commercial core. This led to the identification of a total of 20 census tracts. Within the Buckhead commercial core boundary, there are 75,700 workers; the larger housing shed census tracts contain 51,400 households.

Study Area
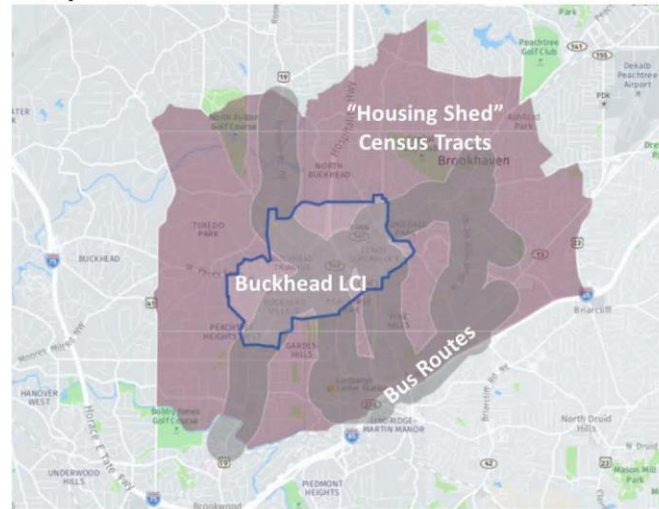
Workforce Study Area

75,700
Workers currently within the commercial core boundaries

Housing study area

51,400 [1]
Households currently in the greater housing shed, including:
- 40% in the commercial core, and
- 60% surrounding the core

1. Note: This number does not include vacant units.

MARKET OVERVIEW   HR&A Advisors, Inc.   16

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NOONDAY CREEK & COBB PARKWAY CROSSING STUDY
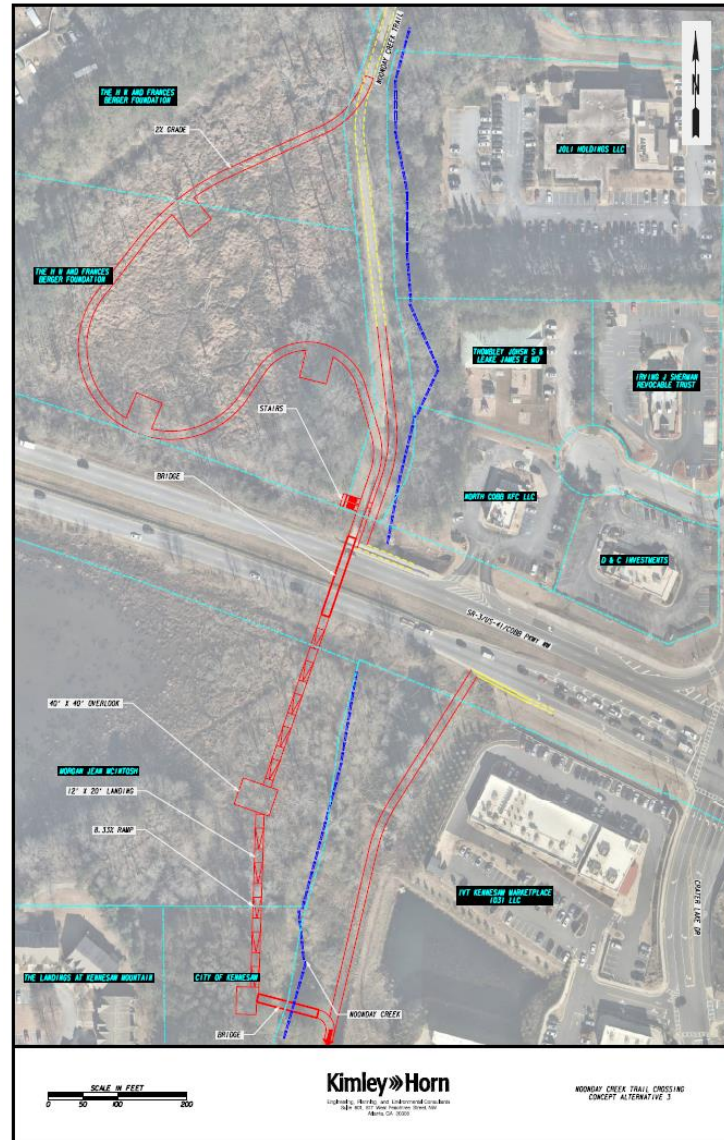
This study determined a preferred crossing location and type to cross Cobb Parkway using the Noonday Creek Trail. The result of the study was a GDOT Limited Concept Report to allow the CID and City to apply for future funding opportunities.

Funding Year/Cost:
2018/$120,000

Sponsors:
Town Center CID and City of Kennesaw

Lead Consultant:
Kimley-Horn

VIRGINIA AVENUE SMART CORRIDOR STUDY

This study examined opportunities to incorporate Smart Technology along Virginia Avenue in the Cities of Hapeville, East Point, and College Park.

Funding Year/Cost:
2018/$100,000

Sponsor:
Aerotropolis Atlanta CID

Lead Consultant:
Modern Mobility Partners

View the Study

Project Prioritization Framework Incorporates Sustainable Mobility Options and Sustainable Technologies

Stakeholder Input
Community and/or stakeholder priorities

Return on Investment & Economic Benefits
Jobs created, aesthetics, economic competitiveness

Safety
Anticipated crash and/or crime reduction, safe connections for schools and/or EMS.

Cost
Relatively lower cost projects which could be low-hanging fruit

Project Readiness
GDOT permit requirements, telecommunications availability, MUTCD-compliant, procurement

Mobility Options
Congestion, improves transit, bike, and/or pedestrian amenities and/or service

Environment & Public Health
Anticipated emissions reduction, active transportation

Sustainable Technology
Interoperability (communicates with most technologies); multi-functionality; maintenance requirements; not likely to be outdated within a few years

SUWANEE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE LOOP STUDY

This study examined concepts to connect existing and new trails in the Suwanee LCI.

Funding Year/Cost:
2020/$200,000

Sponsor:
City of Suwanee

Lead Consultant:
Toole Design Group

View the Study

Proposed

Rendering of multi-use path on Eva Kennedy Road

SPRING ROAD CORRIDOR-SMYRNA LCI

This study examined options to better connect Truist Park to the Smyrna LCI, focusing on reimaging Spring Road.

Funding Year/Cost:
2016/$125,000

Sponsor:
City of Smyrna

Lead Consultant:
Sizemore Group

View the Plan

TURNER FIELD NEIGHBORHOODS LCI STUDY

This study planned the redevelopment of the Turner Field site and surrounding parking lots, making transportation improvements conducive to the new uses at the Turner Field site.

Funding Year/Cost:
2015/$287,000

Sponsor:
City of Atlanta

Lead Consultant:
Perkins & Will

View the Study

Birdseye view illustrating the development potential of the core area.
Artistic illustration of planning recommendations for the Turner Field Stadium Neighborhood Livable Centers Initiative.

PERKINS+WILL

SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION

2023 SCHEDULE
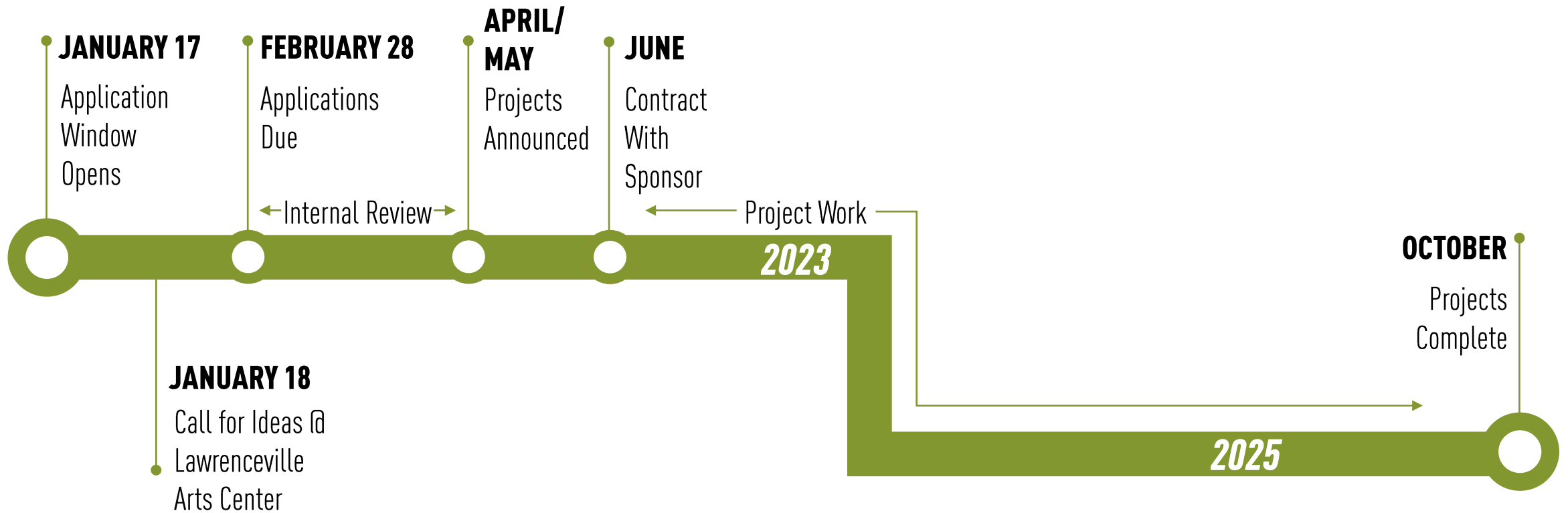
JANUARY 17

Application
Window
Opens

FEBRUARY 28

Applications
Due

**APRIL/
MAY**

Projects
Announced

JUNE

Contract
With
Sponsor

←— Internal Review —→

←— Project Work —

2023

JANUARY 18

Call for Ideas @
Lawrenceville
Arts Center

2025

OCTOBER

Projects
Complete

SELECTION CRITERIA

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Study Need and Innovation**
  - Does the application clearly identify the need for the study along with outcomes? Is the project innovative in its deliverables and approach?
- **LCI Program Goals**
  - Does the application and study support the LCI Goals?
- **LCI Priority Issues**
  - Does the application explain how the study would address one or more LCI Priority Issues?
- **Commitment and Ability to Implement**
  - Has this Sponsor demonstrated the commitment, willingness, and ability to implement LCI study recommendations, and can complete a study on time. For new LCI studies, has the sponsor shown project discussion and implementation of the goals of LCI?
- **Geographic Diversity**
- **Inclusive Engagement**
  - Does the applicant identify minority populations, artists, and community-based organizations (CBOs) that will be a part of the co-creation of the plan, and *how* they will be involved?
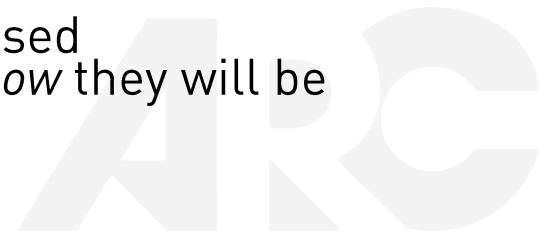
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Q **WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM ARC'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP OUTSIDE THE CALL FOR PROJECTS?**

A Yes, ARC is still a resource for local governments at all times of the year. The annual call for projects will be the primary way to source technical assistance from the Community Development Group. However, communities should reach out to ARC with questions or ideas anytime. Staff capacity and resources will determine the ability to respond to any specific request.

Q **I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAION A LETTER OF COMMITMENT FROM MY CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL. IS A LETTER STILL REQUIRED?**

A A letter of commitment from your chief elected official is a requirement. The letter must also acknowledge a commitment of funding from your local government. If a resolution is required by your local procedures, you may submit the application and then submit the resolution once approved, but before the award announcement. Please state the meeting date on which action will be taken on the application and contact ARC Staff to make us aware of the pending resolution.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q I AM A CID, DO I NEED A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

A Yes, a letter of support from the local government is still required to ensure that your project is not in conflict with any local government actions and will be supported by the local government once completed.

Q IF I WANT TO UPDATE OUR COMMUNITY'S LCI PLAN, DO I NEED TO INCLUDE ALL THE FOCUS AREAS IN MY SCOPE OF WORK

A A. No, select focus areas that you think will have the greatest impact in your community. In addition, creativity in how you are applying those focus areas is strongly encouraged.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q **MY QUALIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT STATUS HAS LAPSED, AND WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED OUR NEEDED UPDATE. ARE WE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDS?**

A No, unless you have already submitted your update to ARC to be approved by DCA.

Q **Q. MY LCI AREA DOES NOT HAVE PLANNED TRANSIT NOR IS IT A TOWN CENTER. ARE WE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR LCI FUNDS?**

A Unfortunately, not at this time. However, CDAP can provide assistance at the same levels as LCI, or your community can apply for general TIP funds to conduct a transportation study.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q **HOW MANY PROJECTS WILL BE SELECTED?**

A There is no set number of projects that will be selected. Once all requests have been received, funding resources and grant amounts will determine the final list of projects.

Q **WE ALREADY HAVE A CONSULTANT UNDER CONTRACT TO DO PLANNING, CAN WE USE THEM?**

A Maybe, depending on the method of procurement. It _**may**_ be possible, but prior approval from ARC is needed in writing. However, ARC _**cannot pay**_ for any work undertaken before entering into a contract with ARC.

Consultants who prepare applications for selected studies are precluded for bidding on that selected study.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

❑ Completed Application

❑ Letter of Support from host local government, if applicable

❑ Funding Resolution or letter from Chief Elected Official or CID Board Chair/Director

❑ Letter(s) of Support from local businesses, stakeholder groups, impacted parties, etc.

❑ If entities other than the applicant are providing matching funds, please include letters of commitment to the matching amount from those funders which includes when those funds will be available

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT

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ARC