Blue-Green-Grey Round 4 Application for New Ideas FAQ

1. **What is the deadline to expend funds?** There is no rule in the call for applications to expend funding by a certain date. However, COG will include a deadline in the contract that will be developed for the project post-award. Funds are reimbursement only and may take about six months to be accessed after funding is awarded because of the contract development process.

2. **What is the funding source?** RTC Local (no local match is required)

3. **Are there any major projected changes to the program this round?**
   - The application template will be a series of questions rather than the prior narrative format. The template is posted on the website at www.nctcog.org/greeninfrastructure.
   - For construction projects, a concurrence letter is required showing coordination/buy-in from the different project partners and a general plan or agreement for long-term maintenance.
   - For construction projects where the applicant is not the property owner, a proof of permission to construct on the site is required. This is mostly relevant to non-profits, individuals, or consultants, as construction must occur within public right-of-way or on public land.

4. **Are there any project types that NCTCOG is specifically interested in funding?** Our ideal project would incorporate all three elements of BGG into either a planning/feasibility study or a pilot construction project. Our scoring criteria emphasizes the overall replicability of projects and how easily they could be scaled so that other entities may implement similar projects. Previously awarded projects are posted here: www.nctcog.org/greeninfrastructure.

5. **I have multiple demonstration sites, and one is at a community college. Is a community college within public right of way (ROW)?** Yes, if it is in a public part of the community college. Include letters of support and concurrence from all partners. If you have multiple sites, break each out in your budget.

6. **Is laboratory testing eligible for funding through this grant?** Yes

7. **Does NCTCOG have any preferred laboratories for testing?** No

8. **Is the purchase of assets eligible for funding through this grant?** It would depend on the relevancy of the assets to the project. Include in your application who would own the assets and maintenance of the asset after the funded project is completed.

9. **Is there anything that has been proposed before that NCTCOG wouldn't want proposed again for BGG funding?** The goal of this funding program is to implement new ideas. A project that is very similar to one that has been previously funded would not be competitive (see previously funded projects at www.nctcog.org/greeninfrastructure).

10. **Is the project required to have an educational component?** It is not required but may make the application more competitive.

11. **Will the grants team consider providing partial awards?** Yes

12. **Can this grant program fund smaller portions of a larger project?** Yes

13. **Must the application have a public agency in place to implement or trial the proposed technology in the application during the application process?** It is preferred that public sector partners are identified in the application and not after funding is awarded.

14. **Are community colleges eligible for funding?** Yes

15. **Is there a maximum indirect cost percentage?** NCTCOG does not set a maximum indirect cost rate. However, as part of the funding application review, we will evaluate the cost effectiveness of the budget, including a review of the reasonableness of the indirect cost rate.

16. **Does NCTCOG provide a partner portal where an applicant can reach out to a potential public agency to partner?** No – it is up to applicants to coordinate with potential partners.

17. **Can NTCOG help applicants find potential cities that may be interested in the proposed solution in the grant application?** No – it is up to applicants to find cities that may be interested in the solutions they're proposing.

18. **Could a three-zone riparian enhancement through native planting on city park land be considered?** It has environmental and water components but would need to include a transportation component. However, if the primary purpose is to plant trees, that would not be considered a new/innovative approach and would not meet the intent of the funding program.

19. **Is there a likelihood of this program having a Phase 2 to extend the impact to larger areas/counties?** Projects falling anywhere within the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area are eligible. This program is currently not structured by the Regional Transportation Council to fund additional phases.

20. **Could we choose a site to add a permeable pavement trail where there is a gap on the trail system?** Possibly, but the trail must be a means of transportation from one point to another, rather than simply for recreation. The Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects will open later this year and will provide another funding opportunity for trail and sidewalk projects.

21. **Do projects need to be shovel ready?** They can be conceptual or planning studies.