

Program overview

What is the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program High Pedestrian Activity Area Sub-Program?

The High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) Sub-Program (the Sub-Program) is a component of the NSW Government's Towards Zero Safer Roads Program (TZSRP). The Sub-Program's purpose to deliver infrastructure and reduce speed zones in areas with high pedestrian activity. HPAA's play a vital role in ensuring that vulnerable road users are protected in identified high pedestrian activity areas that facilitate a high vehicle movement function whilst also creating a vibrant place that prioritises the safe movement of pedestrian and cyclists.

The aim of the Sub-Program is to reduce the risk of fatal or serious injury vulnerable road user crashes within areas of high pedestrian activity.

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

NSW councils, Unincorporated Far West, and Lord Howe Island Board are eligible to apply for funding from the Sub-Program subject to meeting the Sub-Program's eligibility criteria.

Timeframes

What is the sub-program delivery timeframe?

The Sub-Program is a three-year program spanning 2026/27 to 2028/29. All projects must be completed by 30 June 2029. Development need to be completed by the end of 2026/27.

When do applications open and close?

Applications opened on **20 August 2025**. Councils will have about ten weeks to submit applications, which will close at **midnight 31 October 2025**.

Can the deadline for applications be extended?

No. To allow for assessment and commencement of the Sub-Program, applications will close at midnight 31 October 2025.

Please reach out to your local Transport representative for assistance with your application.

Eligibility criteria

What are the eligibility criteria for projects?

Applications must be one of the following:

- A Transport identified pedestrian crash cluster site
- A site identified by Council as a priority for a HPAA within relevant council plans such as council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP), strategic and/or road safety plans
- An already developed HPAA site that is construction ready
- An existing HPAA site with additional traffic calming treatments proposed.

For detailed eligibility criteria please refer to the High Pedestrian Activity Area Sub-Program Guidelines.

Is there a minimum Safety Performance Index (SPI)?

There is no minimum SPI for the Sub-Program.

Do projects need a Safe System Assessment (SSA)?

Proactive HPAA projects applications are required to complete and provide a Safe System Assessment.

Applications

Can I submit the same project to be considered for both the Australian Government Black Spots Program and the High Pedestrian Activity Area Sub-Program?

Yes. Some projects may be eligible for both programs.

You will need to ensure that requirements are met for each program when submitting your application. Please refer to the guidelines for both programs for more details.

You will need to check both program boxes on the Project Details tab of the Safer Roads Portal when completing an application to be considered for funding for both programs. You will only need to make one application but make sure both program boxes are ticked.

How many projects can Council submit in the Portal?

There is no limit to the number of projects Council can submit however please note there is limited funding available so councils should focus on priority projects.

Does a Speed Zone Review need to have been completed before an application for a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) is submitted?

No, HPAA applications are eligible provided there is evidence attached with concurrence from Transport that a Speed Zone Review will be undertaken to support the speed management changes should the HPAA, when fully developed, be agreed. All HPAA applications must complete all mandatory criteria for assessment.

Can councils include the cost of using a specialist consultant to draft applications as part of project applications?

No. Funding allocated under the Sub-Program does not cover the cost of consultants to prepare applications. However, please reach out to your local Transport representative for assistance with your applications if required.

Can HPAA design cost be included in the application?

Yes, as long as the project application includes both design and delivery.

Do ‘shovel ready’ projects get prioritised?

Shovel ready applications may receive higher assessment scores than projects that are not shovel ready in Program criteria 2 – Delivery risk and Program criteria 3 – construction readiness application questions.

What contingency are councils required to include in their project application?

Applications should include a detailed risk-based cost estimate including a P50 and P90 contingency. The project should be analysed to determine the possible risks associated with the project and include appropriate P50 and P90 levels of contingency.

If a project on a Local Road intersects with a State Road, should Transport have input for the application?

Council is required to collaborate with the local Transport representative regarding applications for projects of this type to establish the correct process for submitting an application. Engaging and collaborating with Transport will help to ensure the proposed treatment/s provide the best outcome for the respective roads for the surrounding environment and road users.

Where can councils locate the relevant crash data?

The latest five-year period of complete crash data is the base period required to calculate the SPI for project applications and is available in the Safer Roads Program Management System (Online Portal). The five-year crash data period for HPAA project applications is 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024.

Any crashes following this period such as fatal crashes, can also be included in the application (such as in relevant fields on the ‘Existing Conditions’ tab of the Online Portal and/or as attachments) however, cannot be included in the project’s SPI calculations.

Are applicants able to edit their application?

Applicants can make changes to their application if it is within the application period.

If the application has been submitted in the Safer Roads Portal and is in ‘Under Review’ status and the applicant wishes to make changes whilst the application period is still open, the applicant will need to contact srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au and request the application to be ‘Returned to Applicant’.

Once the application period has closed, the application will be assessed, and any recommendations will be provided to the applicant. Applicants are then able to make the recommended changes.

No new projects will be accepted after the application period closes.

If Council has projects that were returned to applicant by Transport can they be re-submitted?

Yes. Council can edit a "Returned to Applicant" project. When editing and updating a project in the Safer Roads Portal Council must:

- update the financial year to 2026-2027
- unselect all other programs under “program selection”
- reselect the relevant crash period and crashes using the mapping function
- revise the cost estimate and treatment costs
- update any changes in scope in the mapping function
- update all relevant attachments
- review application to ensure it contains all requirements as detailed in the guidelines.

What are the next steps for applications for the Sub-Program after applications close?

Each project application will be subject to a competitive merit-based selection process based on eligibility criteria and assessment criteria to enable the selection of projects that meet the Sub-Program objectives.

Transport representatives will undertake an integrity review of each application, which includes eligibility and technical review/assessment.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Safe Systems Review Committee (SSRC) for final assurance, where projects will be either endorsed or not endorsed to progress to prioritisation for the Sub-Program.

Following the SSRC review, recommendations will be made to appropriate governance committees on a prioritised list of projects for funding consideration. The Transport Deputy Secretary, Safety, Policy, Environment and Regulation is the final decision maker for approved projects as the Program Sponsor.

Following final approval, Transport will contact all applicants to inform them of the outcome of their project proposal.

During the assessment process applicants may be contacted if there is additional information required. For applications requiring additional information, applicants will need to prioritise their resubmission within the timeframes provided by Transport.

When will announcements be made on successful applications for the Sub-Program?

It is anticipated that successful applications will be announced in mid-2026.

Unsuccessful applications will also receive written advice at this time.

Funding

Can HPAA funding be combined with other funding sources?

Yes. Co-funded projects are strongly encouraged within the Sub-Program. Information should be provided in the application about all other funding sources for the proposed site including confirmation that co-funding has been secured. Timing of other funding sources needs to be considered to ensure the project can be completed within the sub-program time frames.

Safer Roads Portal

How do I get access to the Safer Roads Portal?

For access to the Safer Roads Portal please use the following form <https://forms.office.com/r/seNCw7WfEB>

Once approved you will be sent a link to the Portal.

I'm having technical difficulties with the Safer Roads Portal. What should I do?

Please take a screenshot of the error you are encountering and send the image with a description of the problem and your details to srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Program Delivery

How will payments be made to councils?

Council will receive payments upon completion of project milestones. Council will be required to provide evidence at the completion of each milestone before payments are made.

Further details on milestones and payments will be provided to successful applicants.

What happens if the project requires more funding?

The Safer Roads Portal requires entering values for the base cost, P50, and P90, which must also be supported by an attached cost estimate. When inputting the total project cost, which includes treatments and deliverable years, on the Safety Benefit Options tab of the Safer Roads Portal, it should match the P90 cost estimate amount.

Successful projects will receive funding to the P50 cost estimate level. If a project receives funding and exhausts the Base + P50 contingency but remains within the P90 cost estimate, the applicant must submit a cost variation to request all or part of the additional P90 contingency. However, there is no guarantee that this funding will be provided. Councils should not rely on this additional contingency when submitting a proposal to the Sub-Program.

More information on using contingency and requesting funding above the contingency through a variation submission will be given to successful applicants.

What is the process for submitting a change to the project if it involves adjustments to cost, scope, schedule, or a combination of these factors?

The applicant will be required to submit a formal request with evidence and justification for the change.

Further information will be made available to successful project applicants.

What will the reporting requirements be for this Program and how often are they required?

At a minimum, monthly reporting is required on all projects as per existing reporting processes.

From time-to-time Transport may request specific or detailed information on a project. It is a requirement for applicants to provide this in a timely and efficient manner when requested to do so.

Further information on reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants.

Contacts

Please direct your questions to the appropriate email address below:

Request to access Safer Roads Portal	srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au
For technical issues with the Safer Roads Portal	srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au
For details on the overarching Towards Zero Safer Roads Program	SRPGA@transport.nsw.gov.au
Project proposal assistance including cost estimation template, star rating and other technical information (Regional)	pmsafety@transport.nsw.gov.au or contact your regional local Transport team. South Region - LGSouth@transport.nsw.gov.au North Region - LGnorthern@transport.nsw.gov.au West Region - LGwestern@transport.nsw.gov.au
Project proposal assistance including cost estimation template, star rating and other technical information (Greater Sydney)	sydney.blackspot.nominations@transport.nsw.gov.au

Key documents

- [026/2027 -2028/29 Towards Zero Safer Roads Program -High Pedestrian Activity Area \(HPAA\) Sub-Program guidelines](#)
- [NSW Speed Zoning Standard](#)

Additional useful resources

- [Design of Roads and Streets Manual](#)
- [Movement and Place - Practitioner's Guide](#)
- [NSW Government Towards Zero Collaboration Hub](#)
- [National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030](#)
- [2026 Road Safety Action Plan](#)
- [Towards Zero Safer Roads program webpage](#)