

MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program

Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (Peninsula RTPO)

Introduction

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a new federal transportation funding program for 2013 as authorized in the new federal transportation act titled, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The Transportation Alternatives Program builds upon the previous Transportation Enhancement Program by clarifying the program's goals that address the following: expanding travel choices, strengthening the local economy, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment. Please go to the Federal Highway Administration Interim Guidance for more information at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

The Transportation Alternatives Program allows each region and/or state to develop their implementation program within the guidelines of the program. However, in order to give the proposed program a direction and focus the following goal statement is proposed. "Transportation Alternative projects are federally-funded community-based projects that expand travel choices and improve the travel experience."

Funding Levels

The Transportation Alternatives funding is sub-allocated to the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (Peninsula RTPO) region based on population.

The 2013 three-rural county (Clallam, Jefferson, Mason) Peninsula RTPO regional sub-allocation is \$189,972.

Eligible Applicants

- Local Governments;
- Regional Transportation Authorities;
- Transit Agencies;
- Natural Resources or Public Land Agencies;
- School Districts, Local Education Agencies, or Schools;
- Tribal Governments;
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than MPO's, RTPOs, or State agency) that the State determines to be eligible (includes Ports if they own the facility and it is open to the public).

All projects must be administered by a certification acceptance (CA) agency. Non CA agencies can apply for TAP funds but must have a CA agency sponsor the project. The sponsorship must be in place prior to applying for funds.

Eligible Activities

The following is a summary of eligible activities authorized in the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program. Projects will be selected by the Peninsula RTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) through a competitive process that will evaluate and rank projects on their merit. Eligible projects must meet one or more of the eligible activities and relate to the surface transportation system (except for recreation trails). There is no requirement for equal distribution of funding among the various eligible activities. For a full explanation of eligible activities please review the Federal Highway Administration Interim Guidance at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.
- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising.
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.
- Vegetation management practices in transportation right-of-way.
- Archaeological activities relating to impacts for implementation of transportation projects eligible under this title.
- Any environmental mitigation activity related to highway construction due to highway runoff.

In addition, eligible Transportation Alternatives projects include any project eligible under the Recreational Trails Program, Safe Routes to School Program, and within the right-of-way of former interstate routes. Please note that Washington State is using a portion of Statewide Transportation Alternatives funds to conduct a statewide Safe Routes to School Program. (Please see the Transportation Alternatives Program: Eligible Activities Handout for more details).

(If you have any questions about eligibility, please call Brian Moorehead of the WSDOT Olympic Region Local Programs office at 360-357-2712)

General Applicant Information

- The Transportation Alternatives Program is a reimbursement grant program. Only after a Local Agency Agreement has been approved by WSDOT can project costs become eligible for reimbursement. This means project sponsors must incur the cost of the project prior to being repaid. Any work conducted prior to a signed Local Agency Agreement is not eligible for reimbursement.
- A local match of 13.5% is required for all Transportation Alternatives projects.

Once the project is programmed in the RTIP, no cost increase or movement of funds between phases (PE, RW, and CN) will be allowed without Peninsula RTPO approval.

- All projects must follow federal and state regulations, including environmental, right of way, ADA, etc.
- To ensure project delivery an agency may want to split a large project into segments or separate project development phases. Each segment or phase needs to be deemed as a stand-alone project by the Peninsula RTPO. For example, an agency could ask for only design funds and come back for construction funding in future. Also, an agency could break a 3 mile long path into two logical segments.

Screening Requirements

- Project must be consistent with the Peninsula RTPO Regional Transportation Plan
- Project must contain at least one eligible Transportation Alternatives Category
- Must have a direct relationship to the surface transportation system (except trails)
- Funds cannot be used to supplement the construction of an existing project. For example, TAP funds cannot be used to pay for the sidewalk portion on an existing road project.
- Project must be open for public access

Project Selection

TAC members will evaluate and rank TAP project proposals at its May 16, 2013 meeting.

Project Application

An electronic version of the project application is available on the Peninsula RTPO website at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/prtpo/>

As well as an attachment to this handout.

Evaluation Criteria

The following is a general list of project evaluation criteria that the TAC should consider as they evaluate the TAP proposals.

1. Is the project ready to be ideally obligated by Oct 1, 2013 and has a local match of 13.5%?
2. Does the project help achieve an identified/planned need, what are project benefits, including how it complies with the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) eligibility activities & requirements?
3. Is the project consistent with local plans and the Peninsula RTPO Regional Transportation Plan goals and policies?
4. Does the project enhance connections to local or regional system?

Proposed TAP Program Development Schedule

The following the 2013 schedule for the regional TAP process:

March 21, 2013	Technical Advisory Committee approved TAP process.
March 29, 2013	Call for TAP projects.
April 19, 2013	TAP project applications due to Peninsula RTPO.
April 19, 2013	Executive Council/Policy Board approval of TAP process.
April 22-26 , 2013	WSDOT Local Programs Office/PRTPO Staff preliminary review applications for eligibility.
May 2-16, 2013	TAC Members planning to attend the May 16 th TAC meeting review the TAP applications. Copies of the project proposals will be sent out by email and/or will be on the Peninsula RTPO website.
May 16 , 2013	TAC Meeting meets to rank and select TAP projects
May 17, 2013	TAP projects proceed.
September 15, 2013	Due to be in to WSDOT Olympic Region Local Programs Office for review of TAP Project obligation status by WSDOT Local Programs Office/PRTPO Staff.
October 1, 2013	Deadline for TAP projects should be obligated by Oct. 1, 2013.