



Report - Transportation Enhancement Program and Complete Streets

Section 1 - Purpose and Summary

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has taken action to comply with Section 321 in the boilerplate of MDOT's fiscal year 2011 appropriations act. The boilerplate specifically states:

"In evaluating and awarding enhancement grants, the department shall give preference to applicants which have adopted complete streets policies. In addition, the department shall give preference to enhancement grant applications which further complete streets policy objectives."

This report outlines the specific actions taken. A summary of actions taken by MDOT include:

- Updated "TE Project Competitiveness Details" document
- Added Complete streets related questions to the new TE online application currently being developed
- Developed an interim plan to collect complete streets information from applicants until the new TE online application can be released
- Communicated program changes

Section 2 - TE Program Changes Implemented

MDOT made updates to the "TE Project Competitiveness Details" to include complete streets. Specifically, the following items were added as factors that make a project competitive for TE funding:

"Projects identified as a result of a community's Complete Streets stakeholder involvement process."

"Projects supporting a community's Complete Streets policy..."

These updated factors are included on page 2 of the, "TE Project Competitiveness Details" document found at www.michigan.gov/tea and attached in the appendix of this report.

The TE Program has also proposed changes to our updated online grant application per the two-page document found in the appendix of this report. The updated online grant application system is currently in the IT project development stage and is expected to be live this year. In the meantime, applicants who have Complete Streets policies are asked to provide information about their policy and how the proposed TE project supports this policy within "Attachment A" (the narrative section) of the current online grant application. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed project with a grant coordinator before starting an application. A map and contact information for the grant coordinators is available at www.michigan.gov/tea, under "Contact Us."



Section 3 - Communication of the TE Program Changes

The TE Program communicated the changes implemented to the program to perspective applicants, the Michigan Municipal League, League of Michigan Bicyclists, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, and MDOT staff, particularly targeting the staff that assists local agencies. In addition, the new program guidance has been posted on the TE Program website and the changes are highlighted in TE Program presentations that are given around the state.

Section 4 - Conclusion and Appendix

Complete Streets was an easy fit into TE Program criteria as Complete Streets objectives and TE projects are both aimed at producing an enhanced transportation network that plays an important role in the livability of our communities. The Complete Streets legislation advanced the importance of cooperation and coordination among transportation agencies and stakeholders to consider the context of the area and stakeholder needs when developing transportation projects. The TE Program looks forward to the successful transportation projects and potential TE projects that will come from this type of project development process.

Any additional questions related to the TE Program and Complete Streets may be directed to Amber Thelen, TE Program Manager. She can be reached at 517-241-1456 or thelena@michigan.gov.

The following documents are appended to this report for reference:

1. "TE Project Competitiveness Details"
2. TE online application - revised questions to be implemented this year

Application 12345

- » Application Details
- » Reviews
- » Review MGS
- » File Notes
- » Archive
- » Merge Pre-Applications
- » Correspondence Window
- » Post-project Survey

Grant Application

- » Search
- » Create TE Application
- » Create TE Pre-Application

Generate Correspondence

Reports

System Administration

- » Add Notification
- » Search Notification
- » Maintain Templates
- » Maintain Code Tables
- » Maintain User Access

- Description
- Contacts
- Narrative
- Documents
- Budget
- Schedule
- Community / Env Factors
- Property
- Maintenance
- Summary

Community/Environmental Factors

1. Check all that apply. (See instruction booklet for more information.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional ROW/Grading permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Static Historic Preservation Office Clearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inland lakes or streams permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal zone | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> |

Please describe:

2. a.) How did you facilitate stakeholder engagement in the development of this project concept and what stakeholders were involved?

b.) Describe the stakeholder input you received. How did this input help shape this project concept?

3. Is this project identified in an adopted community, county, and/or region-wide plan? (Such as a master plan, comprehensive plan, trail plan, downtown development plan, etc.)

Yes No

4. Has your community adopted a Complete Streets policy?

Yes No

a.) What type of document is your policy? (Please select all that apply.)

- policy
- resolution
- ordinance
- masterplan
- capital improvement program
- other (please specify)

b.) How does this project support this policy?

c.) Please describe what investment your community has made and/or activities you conducted to support your Complete Streets policy.



Michigan Department of Transportation

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

What types of projects are competitive for TE funding?

Nonmotorized Category

- Nonmotorized facilities that:
 - connect and develop documented regional or statewide trail systems
 - are appropriate for the need and user types targeted
 - benefit state tourism or economic development initiatives
 - if locally significant, have strong transportation connection and involve planning efforts or serve as connectors to regional trails
 - are a priority on MDOT, county or regional trail plans
 - address documented safety deficiencies
 - are part of a broader non-TE funded nonmotorized system
- Nonmotorized amenities that increase usability of nonmotorized facilities

Transportation Aesthetics Category

- Scenic Acquisitions that:
 - protect viewsheds of the Great Lakes and/or provide a benefit to state tourism
- Streetscapes that:
 - are located in established traditional downtowns or historic districts
 - use a creative design approach and take into account the community identity, history, context, and the human environment
 - accomplish multiple goals (traffic calming, pedestrian safety, tied with other initiatives, water quality improvements, etc.)
 - receive input and support from citizens, local businesses, economic developers, traffic engineers, historians, etc.
- Highway Landscaping that:
 - defines a gateway to an important location
 - screens an area that creates a negative visual impact from the highway
 - accomplishes multiple goals (water quality improvements, native plants, traffic calming, etc.)

Historic Preservation Category

- Historic preservation projects that:
 - enhance National Register-listed historic districts, locally designated districts or National Heritage Areas
 - preserve original structure on site (off site if only option available for bridges)
 - promote cultural tourism

Water Quality Category

- Water Quality projects that:
 - will have a positive effect on important watersheds or water bodies with sensitive fisheries or that is not attaining the state water quality standards
 - include monitoring after implementation or projections of water quality improvement
 - are consistent with a local watershed management plan
 - include an inspection and maintenance schedule

Wildlife Mortality Category

- Wildlife Mortality projects that:
 - involve threatened or endangered species
 - improve safety by directly lowering vehicle/animal collisions
 - are research or study oriented in regards to design and highway planning



Michigan Department of Transportation

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

What other factors make a project competitive for TE funding?

- **Financial factors:**
 - realistic expectations and cost
 - a high level of overmatch (40% and higher, ability to pay is considered)
 - non-participating work is determined to be a benefit to the TE project
- **Public input:**
 - project identified as a result of a community's Complete Streets stakeholder involvement process
 - project receiving a high level of public input from multiple partners
- **Coordinated efforts:**
 - Projects supporting a community's Complete Streets policy, or is part of a statewide initiative such as Cool Cities, Cities of Promise, the Safe Routes to School Program, Heritage Route or Scenic Byways Program
 - paired with other infrastructure work
 - part of an economic development or community improvement initiative
- **Maintenance factors:**
 - strong maintenance plan that speaks to tasks, schedule, cost, source of maintenance funding, and responsible parties
- **Previous TE funding:**
 - amount of TE investment in prior years
 - timely implementation and maintenance on previous projects

What items are ineligible for TE funding?

Eligible costs are those costs determined by federal TE program guidance and by MDOT to be consistent with achieving the intention of 12 activity categories set forth in the federal law. Some project development costs may meet the federal eligibility criteria but are ruled ineligible by MDOT for programmatic purposes - primarily to enable the limited TE funds to support more projects. MDOT usually considers the following costs to be ineligible for funding:

- Design engineering
- Construction engineering
- Project administration
- Environmental clearance and mitigation
- Construction extras and cost overruns

Various project elements also deemed ineligible for funding include the following:

- Annual plantings
- Banners
- Building facades (except for historic transportation buildings)
- Burying utility lines
- Clock towers
- Curb and gutter (negotiable in a water quality project)
- Decorative fountains
- Decorative street signs
- Electrical for tree lighting
- Flag poles
- Irrigation
- Items required as federal aid project mitigation
- Public art
- Speaker systems
- Landscaping of property (as opposed to road ROW)
- Wayfinding primarily for vehicular use
- Welcome signs

For many projects, these ineligible costs may be characterized as non-participating costs.

*** It is highly recommended that you contact a TE Grant Coordinator at 517-335-1069 to discuss your proposed project before filling out a grant application.**