

Program Overview



Overview

- The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a competitive grant program that uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options.
- TAP was created by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), signed into law in July 2012. TAP continued as a set-aside to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program with the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), signed into law in December 2015.
- Approximately \$24 million is available annually. Of this, \$17 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Economic Development (OED). Another \$7 million is available through a competitive grant process administered by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in urban areas with populations greater than 200,000.

Eligible Activities

The FAST Act specifies the following activities as eligible for TAP funding:

- Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including traffic-calming and other safety improvements
- Safe routes for non-drivers
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails
- Turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
- Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising
- Vegetation management practices in transportation rights of way
- Archaeological activities
- Environmental mitigation activities
- Boulevards in the right of way of former interstates or other divided highways

Program Requirements

- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, villages, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, state and federal natural resource or public land agencies, nonprofits responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs, and tribal governments. MDOT may partner with a local agency to apply for funding and implement the project. Other organizations, such as townships or trail groups, may work with an eligible agency to apply.
- TAP funding requires matching funds of at least 20 percent of the eligible project cost. Additional consideration is given to projects whose match exceeds the minimum required.

How to Apply

Applications are accepted year-round.

Go online at www.michigan.gov/tap for the online application and instructions.

It is highly recommended that you contact a grant coordinator at 517-335-1069 to discuss the proposed project before filling out a grant application.

Grant coordinators are available to assist you by providing more information on the program, guidance on competitive projects, and how to best develop a competitive application.