

## Competitiveness and Eligibility Details



### What types of projects are competitive for TAP funding?

#### Facilities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

- *Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including shared-use paths, that:*
  - connect and develop documented regional or statewide bicycle and pedestrian transportation networks.
  - 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 networks.
  - are a priority on state, county or regional nonmotorized transportation plans.
  - address documented safety deficiencies.
  - are part of a broader non-Transportation Enhancement or TAP-funded bicycle and pedestrian transportation networks.
- *Amenities that increase usability of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.*
- *Streetscape improvements that:*
  - are located in established traditional downtowns or historic districts, including areas with high pedestrian activity or of a context that promotes pedestrian transportation.
  - use a creative design approach that enhances pedestrian safety and takes 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.

#### Turnouts, Overlooks, and Viewing Areas

- *Projects that:*
  - provide views of the Great Lakes or highly unique and scenic areas, and/or provide a benefit to state tourism.

#### Historic Preservation and Repair of Transportation Facilities

- *Historic preservation projects that:*
  - enhance National Register-listed historic districts, locally designated districts or National Heritage Areas.
  - preserve original property in place (certain bridges designed to be moved are an exception).
  - promote cultural tourism.

#### Environmental Mitigation Activities

- *Water quality projects that:*
  - will have a positive effect on important watersheds or water bodies with sensitive fisheries or that are not attaining 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.

#### Other Eligible Activities

- *For information on the Safe Routes to School Program, go online at [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org).*
- *Other eligible activities defined in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) but not specifically listed here are generally not competitive. Consideration will be given in certain circumstances where significant benefit to the state is demonstrated.*

\* **Important note:** These details about competitiveness and eligibility pertain only to the \$17 million of TAP funding available per year through the competitive process administered by MDOT. \$7 million is available per year through competitive grant processes administered by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in urban areas with populations greater than 200,000. For applicants in those areas, please consult with the MPOs for competitiveness and eligibility details.

Photo: Pere Marquette Rail-Trail Tunnel under US-127

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### What other factors make a project competitive for TAP funding?

#### Financial factors

- Realistic expectations and cost.
- A high level of overmatch (40 percent and higher, ability to pay is considered).
- Non-participating work that is determined to be a benefit to the TAP 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

- Project supporting a community's Complete Streets policy, is on a designated state or national scenic byway, or is part of a statewide initiative, such as placemaking, statewide trail connectivity, or tourism efforts.
- Paired with other infrastructure work.
- Part of an economic development or community improvement initiative.

#### Constructability

- Project design will use industry design standards and can obtain all necessary permits and approvals.

#### Maintenance factors

- Strong maintenance plan that includes tasks, schedule, cost, source of maintenance funding, and responsible parties.

#### Previous Transportation Enhancement (TE) and TAP funding

- Lower-than-average per capita TE and TAP investment in prior years.
- Timely implementation and appropriate maintenance on previous projects.

Eligible costs are those costs determined by federal TAP guidance and by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to be consistent with achieving the intention of eligible categories set forth in federal law. To enable limited TAP funds to support more projects, some project development costs are considered ineligible by MDOT, but may meet federal eligibility. MDOT usually considers the following costs to be ineligible for funding:

- Construction engineering
- Construction extras and cost overruns
- Design engineering
- Environmental clearance and mitigation (except for water quality)
- Permit cost
- Project administration

#### 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 (except for water quality)
- Public art
- Speaker systems
- Landscaping of property (as opposed to road right of way)
- Wayfinding primarily for vehicular use
- Welcome signs

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

### What items are ineligible for TAP funding?

Photo: Historic Merrick Street Bridge Rehabilitation in Adrian

**\* Important note:** It is highly recommended that you contact a grant coordinator at 517-335-1069 to discuss your proposed project before filling out a grant application. For more information, please visit [www.michigan.gov/tap](http://www.michigan.gov/tap).