

## **2018 Transportation Alternatives Program**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Are all projects eligible as defined by FHWA?**

No. MoDOT has limited project eligibility to infrastructure projects that aid in non-motorized transportation. Specifically:

1. Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting, and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;
2. Construction of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs;
3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users; and
4. Construction of infrastructure-related projects to improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools.

#### **How are the application scored?**

A selection committee comprised of area Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) will evaluate all eligible applications using the criteria on the evaluation form. The committee will individually score the applications. The committee will then collectively assign a rating to each eligible application to fund qualified eligible applications, up to the allocated TAP dollar amount for the respective District.

#### **If the LPA has an active or incomplete Federal project does that automatically disqualify them from this program call?**

No. This question is included on the application so MoDOT can be aware if the LPA has incomplete federal projects and or is not meeting the reasonable progress guide. If an LPA is seen to be out of compliance with MoDOT policy, the LPA could be deemed ineligible to receive TAP funds at this time. If you have additional questions please contact your local MoDOT District contact.

#### **What does it mean by 10 pieces of supporting documentation?**

This language is to limit each attachment to 10 pieces each. For example; please limit maps, and photographs to 10 pieces, limit your letters of support to 10.

### **Who is a Person in Responsible Charge?**

The applying Entity must designate a Person in Responsible Charge (RC) of the project that is a full-time public employee or elected official who is accountable for the project. The RC must be listed on the Application Form at the time of application packet submittal. To be designated as an RC, the person must have completed the LPA Online Basic Training on [MoDOT's website](#) and have current certification. The RC is expected to perform the following duties and functions:

- Administer inherently governmental project activities, including those dealing with cost, time, adherence to contract requirements, construction quality and scope of Federal-aid projects;
- Maintain familiarity of day-to-day project operations, including project safety issues;
- Make or participate in decisions about changed conditions or scope changes that require change orders or supplemental agreements;
- Visit and review the project on a frequency that is commensurate with the magnitude and complexity of the project;
- Review financial processes, transactions and documentation to ensure that safeguards are in place to minimize fraud, waste and abuse; and
- Direct project staff, agency or consultant, to carry out project administration and contract oversight, including proper documentation.
- Be aware of the qualifications, assignments and on-the-job performance of the agency and consultant staff at all stages of the project.
- Must sign all project documents including but not limited to agreements, certifications, plans, change orders etc.

### **How will the 40 points for response 9 "Project Description" be awarded?**

The scoring for Project Description will focus on the applicant's ability to fulfill the criteria set forth in the four categories below.

- Clarity – Ensure the description of the project is clear and concise. Thoroughly explain the purpose of the proposed project, what will be constructed, and any other details that will help the selection committee understand the intent of the project.
- Safety – Highlight the degree to which the proposed project will address any existing safety needs or concerns.
- Proximity to Activity Center – Describe the proposed project's location in relation to areas of activity within the community, such as schools, medical or care facilities, shopping districts, etc.
- Connectivity – Explain how the proposed project ties into existing sidewalk or trail facilities.

### **Why are there only 3500 characters allowed for project Description?**

This is an effort to keep project descriptions concise. There are other opportunities in the application to provide additional information about the project location, public support and other planning documents or studies.

**If my project is a minor alternation/improvement, do I still need to bring the whole section into ADA compliance?**

Yes. Any and all components of your TAP project need to bring items into full ADA compliance (including cross slope, ramps, signals, minimum sidewalk width etc). These items are eligible for TAP reimbursement and will not be considered “incidental”. If you have additional questions about ADA and your project, please contact your MoDOT District contact.

**Where is the application form for TAP?**

The application is titled “Application Form” and is found on [MoDOT’s website](#). This is the document that LPAs will use to submit project proposals for consideration.

**Are there opportunities to earn bonus points?**

No. The maximum points available per project application is 100.

**Does an applicant earn additional points for increasing local match?**

The minimum local match is 20% of the total project cost. Applicants providing the minimum amount will earn 0 points on the evaluation form. Increasing local match to 25-35% will earn 5 points. Local match greater than 35% earns 10 points.

**How much federal funding can a single project be awarded?**

The maximum federal reimbursement is \$400,000 for a single project. A project must seek a minimum of \$100,000 of federal reimbursement.

**Can an LPA apply for more than one project?**

Yes. If applying for more than one project, the applicant must indicate on each Application Form the priority ranking of each respective project.