

Key Points
TA Program (*Transportation Alternatives Program*)

Intro: TA Program funds come to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) through allocations in the Transportation Bill: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The TA Program provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

MDT will issue a call for projects for both years of funding under MAP 21 (FFY 2013 and FFY 2014) on or about July 1, 2013. Applications and additional information can be found at:

http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/ta_application.shtml

➤ **Eligible Projects**

1. Transportation Alternatives as defined in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29) (MAP-21 §1103):
 - A. Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized 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 (42 USC 12101 et seq.).
 - B. Construction, planning, and design 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.
 - C. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.
 - D. Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
 - E. Community improvement activities, which include but are not limited to:
 - i. inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising;
 - ii. historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities;
 - iii. vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and
 - iv. archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under title 23.
 - F. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to-
 - i. address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities described in sections 133(b)(11), 328(a), and 329 of title 23; or
 - ii. reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
2. The [recreational trails program](#) under section 206 of title 23.

3. The safe routes to school program eligible projects and activities listed at section 1404(f) of the SAFETEA-LU:
 - A. [Infrastructure-related projects](#).
 - B. [Noninfrastructure-related activities](#).
 - C. Safe Routes to School coordinator.
4. Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

TAP funds cannot be used for:

- State or MPO administrative purposes, except for SRTS administration, and administrative costs of the State permitted for RTP set-aside funds.
- Promotional activities, except as permitted under the SRTS.
- General recreation and park facilities, playground equipment, sports fields, campgrounds, picnic areas and pavilions, etc.
- Routine maintenance and operations.

➤ **Eligible Project Sponsors**

- Local governments;
- Regional transportation authorities;
- Transit agencies;
- Natural resource or public land agencies;
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools;
- Tribal governments; and
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a State agency) that the State determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of subsection (c) of section 213 of title 23.

➤ **Application Process**

Application, timeline and process is located: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/ta_application.shtml
Local contact for program information can be found by contacting Scott Walker, Transportation Planner, phone 247-8661 or email at walkers@ci.billings.mt.us

➤ **Deadlines**

Deadline for proposals to MDT is September 6, 2013.

➤ **Resources for more information**

For more information about Montana's enhancement program, contact Mike Wherley, (406) 444-4221, or email mwherley@mt.gov.

Internet address is http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/ta_application.shtml