

The **Regional Planning Affiliation 2 (RPA 2)**, made up of the counties of Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Floyd, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago Worth and all cities within these counties, is accepting applications for FY 2016-FY 2019 Transportation Alternative Program projects.

Transportation Alternatives include the former **Enhancement, Safe Routes to School and Scenic Byway Programs**. These programs have not been eliminated, but will now compete with each other at the Regional level. As Enhancements have been the more common of the programs, I will explain that further here. **If you have a SRTS question, feel free to contact me and we can discuss potential projects further.** Some Enhancement eligibilities have been eliminated. Under the new Transportation Alternatives funding, only the following, formerly Enhancement categories are eligible:

- **Construction, planning, and design 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.
- **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.
- **Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors** for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
- **Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.**
- **Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising.**
- **Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.**
- **Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way** to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
- **Archaeological activities** relating to impacts from implementation of transportation project eligible under title 23.
- **Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation** to 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;
- **Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation** to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

The above list is exclusive in that a project **MUST** fall into at least one of these categories, and **MUST** be transportation related. Projects must be sponsored by a local government entity, which will make a twenty-year commitment to maintain the project and provide, at least, the necessary 20% minimum local match for the project in addition to all engineering or architect costs. Projects must be constructed to federal specification and be developed and let through the federal development process in the Ames, Iowa office. Approval of the project from RPA 2 is conditional upon approval from the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

The following criteria may be used in part to determine application funding recommendations. These criteria are important but are not the only factors in determining funding recommendations and are as follows:

Funding Criteria

- **Readiness to Proceed/Project Planning**
 - Prior Planning/Included in a planning document
 - Prior fundraising
 - Familiarity with the IDOT development process and federal funding requirements.
 - Maintenance in the future beyond just a 20 year commitment resolution (details or plans to maintain/sustain)

- **Extends existing facility/Connects destinations/Enhances facilities** (adds mileage) (24hr bathroom)

- **Economic Development/Tourism impact** (activities/festivals built around or utilize facilities/attracts visitors)

- **Provides a safety benefit to user and/or public**

- **Level of local funding contribution** (local contribution greater than required 20% + engineering)

The criteria listed above will provide a point of discussion and comparison of potential projects and are not listed in order of importance. As project types may not provide apples to apples comparison, final funding determinations will be based on Committee discussion and how well a project has addressed these criteria in a direct or indirect manner. The Committee reserves the right to recommend or not recommend funding for all applications submitted.

An application is attached. Applications are also available on the NIACOG website www.niacog.org or by calling Chris at (641) 423-0491. **Applications are due in the NIACOG office by 12 o'clock (noon) on March 31, 2015. E-mail applications are acceptable by the deadline. Two (2), signed, full color copies of the full application must be submitted by the TAP Committee meeting at 10:30 AM, Thursday, April 2, 2015.** Questions about a potential project should also be addressed to Chris at (641) 423-0491 or by e-mail at cdiggins@niacog.org.

REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDS

General Information (Please submit two (2) completed applications)

RPA or MPO: _____ e-mail: _____

Eligible Sponsor/Applicant Agency: _____

Contact Person (Name & Title): _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____
Street Address and/or Box No.

City State Zip Daytime Phone

If more than one agency or organization is involved in this project, please state the name, contact person, mailing address, and telephone number of the second agency. (*Attach an additional page if more than two agencies are involved.*)

Applicant Agency: _____ e-mail: _____

Contact Person (Name & Title): _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____
Street Address and/or Box No.

City State Zip Daytime Phone

Project Information

Federal Fiscal Year in which funding is requested (select one): 2015 2016 2017 2018

Project Title: _____

Project Description (including length if applicable) required: _____

If this project includes land acquisition, how many acres? _____

Project Category Check all boxes that apply to indicate the categories that best describe your project.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Trails and Bicycles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including safe routes for non-drivers<input type="checkbox"/> Conversion and use of abandoned railway corridors | <p>3 Safe Routes to School (SRTS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure<input type="checkbox"/> Non-infrastructure |
| <p>2 Scenic and Historic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising<input type="checkbox"/> Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological activities relating to impacts from another eligible activity | <p>4 Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way<input type="checkbox"/> Highway related stormwater management<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or restoration of habitat connectivity |

Estimated Project Costs

Land Cost	\$	
Preliminary Design / Engineering	\$	
Utility Relocation	\$	
Construction Engineering	\$	
Construction Cost	\$	
In-Kind Cost	\$	
Indirect Cost (if applicable)	\$	
Non-infrastructure Cost (SRTS only)	\$	
Other (please specify) _____.	\$	
Total Cost	\$	
TAP Fund Request	\$	
Applicant Match (20% Minimum)	\$	

	Applicant Match Source (20% Minimum)	Amount	Assured or Anticipated (Date Anticipated)
1.			
2.			
3.			

Are any state funds involved in this project? Yes No

If yes, please explain the source and conditions. _____

Are any other federal funds involved in this project? Yes No

If yes, please explain the source and conditions (Please note here if you have previously acquired TAP funds for this project from the state discretionary TAP fund or another MPO or RPA)

Is this project located within a designated scenic or historic byway corridor? Yes No

If so, has the project been endorsed by the appropriate byway board? Yes No

Will this project be open to the public? Yes No

Do you intend to charge a fee to users? Yes No

If yes, how much? \$ _____

What will it be used for? _____

Estimated Project Development Schedule

Design	Start Date _____	Completion Date _____
Land Acquisition	Start Date _____	Completion Date _____
Construction	Start Date _____	Completion Date _____
Non-infrastructure	Start Date _____	Completion Date _____

Has any part of this project been started? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Documentation and Narrative Information

The following documents and narratives must be attached to this application as applicable. In the upper right-hand corner of each document or narrative write the corresponding letter shown below.

- A. A NARRATIVE assessing existing conditions, outlining the concept of the proposed project, and providing adequate project justification. Transportation Alternatives must have a direct relationship to the intermodal transportation system, either as it exists or as it is planned. Assess your project in regard to the transportation system relative to its functional relationship, proximity, or impact to an existing or planned transportation facility. If a regional project, assess the value of this project from a regional perspective and how it will be a functional addition to the transportation system and the region as a whole if no additional development funds are received. If a statewide or multi-regional project, assess the value of this project from a statewide or multi-regional perspective. *(See Attachment B for narrative questions and scoring considerations)*
- B. A DETAILED MAP identifying the location of the project.
- C. A SKETCH-PLAN of the project, including cross-section for bicycle or pedestrian facilities, infrastructure and construction projects only.
- D. An ITEMIZED BREAKDOWN of the total project costs. This documentation does not need to be a detailed, line-item type of estimate. However, it must accomplish two objectives: first, it must show the method by which the cost estimate was prepared; and second, it must enable a reviewer to determine if the cost estimate is reasonable. The manner in which these objectives are achieved may vary widely depending on the type, scope and complexity of the project.
- E. A TIME SCHEDULE for the total project development. Funding for projects which fail to make satisfactory progress may be rescheduled or removed from the program by the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- F. An OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT of the project from the authority to be responsible for its maintenance and operation. The authority must provide written assurance that it will adequately maintain **AND COMMIT FINANCIAL RESOURCES AS NECESSARY** to the completed project for its intended public use for a minimum of 20 years following project completion (10 years for SRTS infrastructure projects).
- G. If applicable, a LETTER OF SUPPORT of the project from the scenic or historic byway board. The board's letter should also address the project's relationship to the byway's intrinsic qualities, how the project will have a statewide or multi-regional impact, and whether the project is included in the byway's current corridor management plan.
- H. As applicable, a NARRATIVE discussing the public input process that was followed and the extent to which adjacent property owners and others have been informed of the proposed project and an assessment of their acceptance. **YOU MUST SHOW THAT AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS ARE AWARE OF THE PROJECT AND BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OR OBJECT THE PROJECT.**

The award of TAP funds; any subsequent funding or letting of contracts for design, construction, reconstruction, improvement, or maintenance; or the furnishing of materials shall not involve direct or indirect interest, prohibited by Iowa Code Sections 314.2, 362.5, or 331.342, of any state, county, or city official, elective or appointive. Any award of funding or any letting of a contract in violation of the foregoing provisions shall invalidate the award of funding and authorize a complete recovery of any funds previously disbursed.

Certification

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information included in this application is true and accurate, including the commitment of all physical and financial resources. This application has been duly authorized by the participating local authority. I understand the attached OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT(S) binds the participating authority to assume responsibility for adequate maintenance of any new or improved facilities.

I understand that, although this information is sufficient to secure a commitment of funds, an executed contract between the applicant and the Iowa Department of Transportation is required prior to the authorization of funds.

Representing the _____

Signature

Date

Typed Name and Title

Date