

## PSRC's 2023 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY

The following is a summary of eligibility information from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), a set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program.<sup>1</sup> The full FHWA guidance memorandum may be found [here](#).

For additional questions on eligibility, please contact Sarah Gutschow at [sgutschow@psrc.org](mailto:sgutschow@psrc.org) or (206) 587-4822.

### ELIGIBLE PROJECT SPONSORS

Eligible project sponsors under this program include the following:

- Local governments.
- Regional transportation authorities.
- Transit agencies.
- Natural resource or public land agencies.
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools.
- Tribal governments.
- Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) that serve urbanized areas (UZAs) with populations of 200,000 or fewer.
- Nonprofit entities.
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a state agency or MPO that serves a UZA with a population over 200,000) that the state determines to be eligible.

State DOTs and MPOs representing UZAs with populations over 200,000 are not eligible project sponsors for TAP funds. However, state DOTs and MPOs may partner with an eligible entity project sponsor to carry out a project.

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<sup>1</sup> As a note, the FAST Act eliminated the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program and replaced it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding for transportation alternatives, which includes all projects and activities that were previously eligible under the program. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) retained previous TA Set-Aside eligibility, amended the reference for SRTS projects, expanded SRTS eligibility to kindergarten through 12th grade, and added activities in furtherance of vulnerable road user safety assessments. For purposes of the PSRC competition, we will continue to refer to the set-aside as the Transportation Alternatives Program.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The following are eligible project categories for the TAP funding for purposes of PSRC's funding competition.

### *Pedestrian and Bicycle*

- 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.
- 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 nonmotorized transportation users.
- [Recreational Trails Program](#) (RTP) eligible projects and activities.<sup>2</sup>
- [Safe Routes to School](#) (SRTS) program eligible projects and activities, including:
  - Infrastructure-related projects
  - Non-infrastructure-related activities<sup>3</sup>
  - SRTS coordinators
- Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.
- Activities in furtherance of a vulnerable road user safety assessment.

### *Historic Resources*

- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities. Operation of historic transportation facilities is not eligible.
- Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project.

### *Environmental*

- 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.
  - Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
- Community improvement activities, which include but are not limited to:
  - Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising.
  - Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

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<sup>2</sup> A portion of Washington State's TAP funds was set aside to fund the state's Recreational Trails Program.

<sup>3</sup> For SRTS non-infrastructure projects, traffic education and enforcement activities must take place within approximately two miles of a primary, middle, or high school (Kindergarten through 12th grade). Other eligible SRTS non-infrastructure activities do not have location restrictions because SRTS infrastructure projects are broadly eligible under other TAP eligibilities.

## NON-ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

TAP funds cannot be used for:

- MPO administrative purposes (with some defined exceptions).
- Promotional activities, except as permitted under the SRTS.
- Routine maintenance and operations, except trail maintenance and restoration as permitted under the RTP.
- General recreation and park facilities, playground equipment, sports fields, campgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, or other facilities that do not serve an eligible TAP, RTP, or SRTS purpose.