

2025 Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Alternatives Program

Monday, February 3, 2025
City Council Work Session



Introduction

- History of federal non-motorized grant administered locally
 - Community Transportation Enhancement Program – CTEP
 - Transportation Alternatives - MDT
- 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Allows MPO's to administer their own competitive application process and approval with oversight from MDT. Includes Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, Gallatin Valley, and Helena
- Funding outlook for this round: \$1,784,111
- Applicants: City, County, Tribal. Non-profits may not apply as primary, must have local government sponsor



TAP Process

- Grant process – Local review with project recommendation to MDT for programming
- MDT manages all projects unless community participates in the MDT LAG program
- All projects must include a local match of 13.42% (cash match only). All projects must be locally run and require MDT approval of a Local Agency Guidelines (LAG). MDT Instructions on developing the budget is included in the TA Instructions
- Non-profits are not eligible to apply as a stand-alone entity, must have a local government sponsor (City or County)



Eligible Projects

- On/Off road and trail facilities
 - Pedestrians
 - Bicyclists
 - Sidewalks
 - Bicycle infrastructure
 - Bike/pedestrian signals
 - Traffic calming
 - ADA projects
 - Transit
 - Non-driver safe routes (multi-destination) for children, older adults and those with disabilities
 - Conversion/use – abandoned rail corridors
 - Construction – turnouts, overlooks
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Eligible Projects Continued

- Safe Routes to School – Projects must be identified in a locally, adopted SRTS Plan
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
- Pavement preservation projects of facilities previously funded through the Community Transportation Enhancement or Transportation Alternatives Program

Full list of eligible projects is available here: [Montana Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program](#)



Not Eligible

- Safety and Education activities
- Landscaping and scenic beautification
- Acquisition of scenic easements or historic sites
- Visitor/welcome centers
- Historic preservation unrelated to transportation. Or operation of historic transportation facilities
- Archaeology
- Transportation museums



TAP Application/Evaluation Scoring

100 Total Points:

Category	Points Available
TA Eligible	Yes/No
Local Sponsor	Yes/No
Project Description	0-10
Project Benefits	0-45
Project Risk Analysis	0-45

Potential Projects

- Coulson Park Trail Connection (FY25-29 CIP) – Improves non-motorized access between downtown and Coulson Park, complementing scheduled improvements to Coulson Park.
- MET Transit projects – Focus on bus stop/shelter ADA improvements, crossings, and sidewalks to enhance transit access.
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects – Identify additional opportunities beyond those in the CIP for the 2025/2026 construction seasons.

This presents an opportunity for the Council to provide staff with guidance and input on the feasibility of applying for Transportation Alternative funding.



Local TA Program Timeline

- January 10, 2025 – MPO/MDT call for applications.
- January 14, 2023 – Public meeting
- April 9, 2025 – Applications due by 5 p.m.



Additional Resources

- [Montana Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)
- [Billings MPO TA Instructions](#)
- [Billings MPO TA Application](#)



Questions

Thank you!

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