

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a comprehensive federal funding category that was created as part of the new federal transportation bill (MAP-21). This was signed into law in July 2012 and was effective October 1, 2012. TAP incorporates the following three WisDOT multi-nodal transportation improvement programs:

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Transportation Enhancements (TE)
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Program (BPPF)

WisDOT previously administered these programs as three distinct federal funding categories. Under MAP-21, WisDOT will accept applications and select TAP projects in a single award cycle, thereby streamlining the application process. TAP will provide funding for 80% of the project cost with a 20% local match.



FUNDING CYCLE

The upcoming funding cycle for the 2016—2020 TAP Program is as follows:

- Solicitation for Applications Posted: October 30, 2015
- Applications Deadline: January 29, 2016
- Grant Award Announcements: July or August 2016

FUNDING LEVELS UNDER MAP-21

The total national funding for TAP is equal to 2% of the total amount authorized from the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund for Federal-aid Highways each fiscal year. Each State's TAP funding and allocation within each state is determined by methodology included within MAP-21. Following is a summary of funding for the fiscal years 2016 and 2017:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Wisconsin TAP \$</u>
2016	\$ 7,049,300
2017	\$ 7,049,300
Total	\$ 14,098,600

Fifty percent of the federal funds must be allocated to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with urbanized populations over 200,000 (Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Appleton and Round Lake Beach). The remaining funds will be allocated to non-urban areas provided there is an adequate number of quality projects. For infrastructure projects, the minimum project size including engineering is \$300,000. For non-infrastructure projects, the minimum project size is \$50,000. The WisDOT has not set a maximum project cost threshold, but due to funding levels they are limited with being able to fund projects requesting \$1 million or more.



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible for TAP funds, a project must fall within one of the following categories and relate to surface transportation:

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE FACILITIES

Sidewalks; walkways or curb ramps; bike lane striping; wide paved shoulders; bike parking and bus racks; traffic calming; off-road trails; bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses; and ADA compliance.

SAFE ROUTES FOR NON-DRIVERS

Access and accommodation for children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities.

CONVERSION OF ABANDONED RAILWAY CORRIDORS TO TRAILS

Acquisition of railroad rights-of-way; planning, design and construction of multiuse trails and rail-with-trail projects.

SCENIC TURNOUTS AND OVERLOOKS

Construction of scenic turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Billboard inventories and removal of illegal and nonconforming billboards.
- Historic preservation & rehab of historic transportation facilities.
- Vegetation management practices in transportation right-of-ways.
- Archaeological activities related to transportation projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

Pollution prevention and abatement activities to address stormwater management; and water pollution prevention related to highway construction.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Projects included within the recreational trails program.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Projects included within the Safe Routes to School Program.

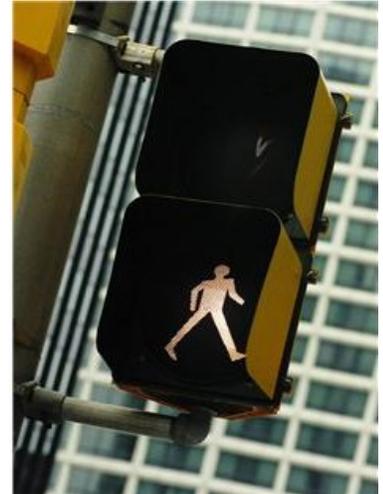
BOULEVARDS & OTHER ROADWAYS WITHIN FORMER INTERSTATE SYSTEM ROUTES

Planning, design and construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate or other divided highways.

WisDOT POLICIES

WisDOT has established the following policies regarding TAP project eligibility:

- Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities: Considerable emphasis on funding these projects.
- Outdoor Advertising & Vegetation Management: Will not fund these projects.
- Recreational Trails Program: WisDOT allocates \$2 million annually for WisDNR



Vierbicher has been successful in securing more than \$85 million in grant funding for public projects. For additional information regarding any of these programs, or other opportunities for public funding, please contact:

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