

Richland County Regional Planning Commission

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Policy

Guidance

This Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Policy is to guide local project planning, development, and decision-making for federal funds sub-allocated by ODOT to the Richland County MPO. TAP provides a means of funding projects supportive of what is also known as “Complete Streets”, “Active Transportation” as well as “Rails to Trails”, all funded under the previous Transportation Enhancements program.

Projects that improve safety for bicycling and walking continue to be elements of our short and long-range transportation planning & improvement program.

Program Description

TAP is a federal program that funds projects to establish and improve the infrastructure for non-motorized transportation. The program provides federal funds for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by integrating modes and improving the cultural, historic, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

Projects may include on-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; non-infrastructure community improvement activities; environmental mitigation; streetscape improvements; refurbishment of historic transportation facilities; and other investments that enhance communities, connections, and access.

(see full list and detailed examples in Appendix A).

Funding

Currently the Richland County MPO receives a yearly allocation of TAP Funds.

FY2016 thru FY2019 Allocation is approximately \$128,000/Year

(This requires \$32,000 in local match funding. 80/20 \$128,000 + \$32,000 = \$160,000 Program)

The MPO could decide to forfeit this allocation and compete for funds through a small MPO statewide TAP program. More expensive projects are possible through this program, although there is no guarantee of funds awarded to the MPO.

Qualified Applicants

Entities eligible to submit project applications are:

- Élocal governments
- Étransit agencies
- Énatural resource or public land agencies

Non-profits are NOT eligible applicants, but can partner with any eligible entity on an eligible TAP project.

Project Prioritization, Scoring and Selection

Because of very limited TAP funds available, activities 1, 2 and 3 (See Appendix A), facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized forms of transportation, safe routes for non-drivers, and Rails to Trails will be the primary focus of project initiation and selection.

DRAFT Project Application Cycle

- May TAC Meeting ó Project Introduction/questions
- May ó July TAC Members review projects / compare
- July 30th Project Scoring to Transportation Technical Director
- August TAC Meeting ó review and compile project scoring
- October Resolution at Full Commission Meeting

RCRPC will use a comparative project selection process.

A paired comparison and selection of each application will be conducted, with the ÷winningö project of each pair receiving a point. Projects will then be ranked highest to lowest according to number of points.

When deciding which project is ÷better,ö the scoring will consider criteria such as:

- Overall benefit to the community or region.
- Environmental impact of the proposed project.
- Support from the general public, local agencies, and/or non-profit organizations?
- Is the project part of an identified local or regional plan?
- How does the project benefit the existing transportation system?
- Will it improve conditions of existing facilities and systems?
- What are the environmental justice and transportation equity impacts, if any?
- How is safety improved for the target population served by the project?

Sample Scoring Sheet

<u>Project</u>	<u>wins</u>	<u>project comparisons</u>
Project A.	<u> 3 </u>	A vs. B A vs. C A vs. D A vs. E A vs. F
Project B.	<u> 4 </u>	B vs. C B vs. D B vs. E B vs. F
Project C.	<u> 2 </u>	C vs. D C vs. E C vs. F
Project D.	<u> 5 </u>	D vs. E D vs. F
Project E.	<u> 0 </u>	E vs. F
Project F.	<u> 1 </u>	

In this example, Project “D” would earn the highest priority with a score of “5”