

Transportation Alternatives Program Recreational Trails Program

2024 Application Cycle

Questions and Answers

Q: Can we have this slide deck?

A: A recording of this session and the slide deck are available on our website.

Q: Does Buy American apply?

A: Yes, Build America Buy America applies to TAP and RTP.

Q: Is cash overflow on a current trail project eligible?

A: Costs that have been previously incurred are not eligible. If the phase is already under development unfortunately you won't be able to apply for Federal funding for that phase.

Q: Is there a question list that can be printed out?

A: The application for TAP and RTP is available on our website. Feel free to look at it and take notes before sending your application in.

Q: I would like to apply for the design phase of a project; converting a section of existing state highway to a "complete street" to include protected bike lanes, pedestrian accommodations, and potentially some landscaping and lighting. Would such a design project qualify?

A: This design phase may qualify, but due to limited knowledge of project location, please reach out to Kim Sanders or Minghua Qiu Miller. Contact information is available on our website at www.ardot.gov/TAP or www.ardot.gov/RTP.

Q: Is funding available for acquisition of right of way?

A: Yes, but only if you have not started that phase yet. If the phase is already under development unfortunately you won't be able to apply for Federal funding.

Q: Our school district and city would like to partner on a sidewalk project that runs throughout. Can we be co-applicants?

A: Yes. You will need to determine who will be taking the lead on the project. The lead entity on the project should be the one who is filling out the application because they will become our primary contact.

Q: Will this program be available next year?

A: As of now, yes. The TAP and RTPs are available through 2026.

Q: Have non-infrastructure educational projects been considered attractive in previous years? Or do construction projects tend to be favored?

A: It varies depending on the year and what type of projects have been submitted. ARDOT has awarded both non-infrastructure and construction projects in the past through the TAP and RTP.

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Q: If a City and school combine partnerships but we find that the project cost is over \$500,000, should we each apply separately for "our portion" of the project or will the maximum funding be \$500k since it's one project, technically?

A: It might be beneficial to partner together for the committee to see the project as one project. The committee will not award separate money for the same project.

Q: Can a city and a school apply for the same project to help with the cost?

A: One of the entities can apply for the full project and the other entity can provide funding for the project.

Q: Can in-kind labor be used for sidewalks?

A: Sidewalks do not qualify for the RTP. Only RTP projects are eligible for in-kind labor.

Q: How do we request an in-kind match?

A: In-kind matching is only accepted for projects that are eligible for RTP funding. You can select Donated Cash, Materials, or Services in the "Matching Funds" section of the application. To verify the project's eligibility, contact us at LPA@ardot.gov with a summary of your project scope and we can discuss the eligibility in more detail.

Q: If a project is funded, how long do you have to complete the project?

A: Typically, ARDOT likes to see the project under construction within two years of being awarded.

Q: If a non-profit is applying, and they own a portion of the property for the project and the County owns another portion, will we need resolutions from both entities?

A: Yes, depending on financial commitments. If there is a partnership, ARDOT would like to have a resolution from both entities. If the nonprofit is providing a match and the County is providing the land, then it may only be necessary for the nonprofit to provide a resolution.

Q: Are projects that are in towns with over 200,000 residents not eligible?

A: Metropolitan Planning Organizations that serve a population of greater than 200,000 are not eligible to be project sponsors. A project can be located anywhere throughout the State if the project is awarded to an eligible sponsor such as a City, County, etc. A list of eligible sponsors can be found on our websites at www.ardot.gov/TAP and www.ardot.gov/RTP.

Q: I see the application is due May 31. When are awards expected to be made and when will funds be available?

A: The awards for TAP and RTP are typically announced by the end of the calendar year. Once the Highway Commission approves the awards list it will be posted at www.ardot.gov/TAP and www.ardot.gov/RTP. This is a reimbursement program, after the agreement is executed, you will have to expend funds and submit a reimbursement request to receive funds for the project.

Q: I understand that the maximum award is \$500,000. What is the total pool of money available for this fiscal year?

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A: Approximately available funds this year for the TAP is \$14.7 million and RTP is approximately \$1.4 million.

Q: Can you explain what statement number 1 under the cost estimate spreadsheet means?

A: If federal funding will be utilized for the design phase, a certain procedure will need to be followed to select the consultant. The LPA Manual provides more detailed information, and it is available on our website at www.ardot.gov/LPA.

Q: Is it possible to apply for multiple phases with a single grant award? For instance, can we apply for preliminary engineering & design? If so, how will we have a detailed cost estimate for construction?

A: Yes. You can apply for all phases in one application. The spreadsheet for the estimate has two tabs, one for all phase costs, the other tab is for a breakdown of construction costs.

Q: How do "water trails" fit into TAP/RTP (motorized)? River access development projects are "trailheads". Boat ramps, parking, and bathrooms are the primary infrastructure at these sites. Are these eligible projects?

A: Yes, these are eligible. ARDOT has awarded projects for boat ramps in the past including one for the Illinois River off Highway 59 and one in Blytheville off the Mississippi River. Both are projects that were submitted as trailheads.

Q: If a sponsor uses a consultant to prepare the application, does that exclude them from applying for funding?

A: No, but ARDOT will not reimburse the consultant for time spent on the application. Please keep in mind that once federal funding is awarded, then the consultant procurement process can begin to select a consultant for the awarded phases.

Q: Is a historic bridge that was formerly a vehicle bridge eligible for restoration as a pedestrian/bike trail bridge?

A: Yes, that is an eligible project.