

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

2025 Application Cycle

Questions and Answers

Q: Can one engineering firm do both a study and then the design if they were hired under a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process?

A: Yes, provided the RFQ includes both the study and design phases.

Q: What are the effects of the federal review and pause of grants to the TAP and RTP 2025 awards and the previous awarded projects? Does ARDOT have any guidance?

A: The [Unleashing American Energy Executive Order](#) did not affect TAP and RTP, therefore ARDOT is continuing to move forward with the programs.

Q: Would a boat launch and bank stabilization in a park be an eligible project?

A: A project is eligible for motorized RTP funding only if the boat launch is intended for motorized boats. If the launch is designed for non-motorized watercraft, such as kayaks, it would not qualify for motorized RTP funding but would instead be eligible for TAP funding.

Q: Is there a payback clause in ARDOT's agreement if a project does not proceed to construction?

A: Yes, any federal funds used for a project that are not part of the study phase must be repaid if the project does not proceed to construction.

Q: What type of lighting is eligible under TAP?

A: Lighting that demonstrates improvement of pedestrian safety is an eligible project under TAP.

Q: Is TAP or RTP able to provide funding to non-profits in a rural area wanting to provide van service to residents where there is no public transportation?

A: No. However, the Local Programs Division offers assistance through other programs. Please visit, www.ardot.gov/divisions/local-programs/public-transportation-programs, for more information on those Federal and State Programs applications.

Q: Is a pump track/bicycle park that is connected to a trail system an eligible project under RTP?

A: If the pump track/bicycle park is part of the trail system, it would be eligible for both TAP and RTP funding.

Q: How would ARDOT recommend that an applicant prioritize projects if one project aligns more with TAP and the other aligns more with RTP?

A: Prioritizing by program is not required, as ARDOT typically awards only one project per sponsor per application cycle. Instead, applicants should prioritize the project that best aligns with the community's needs.

Q: Would a sidewalk be eligible under RTP if it connects to a trail?

A: If the project is simply providing a sidewalk, it is only eligible under TAP.

Q: How is a Sponsor able to contract an on-call consultant from ARDOT?

A: The ARDOT Project Manager assigned to the project will guide the Sponsor through the Local Programs on-call consultant process.

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Q: Is there a scoring rubric or list of criteria that applications will be scored against?

A: There is no formal rubric. However, the application will be evaluated based on three main criteria: Project Overview, Project Benefits, and Project Background.

Q: If you are new to this process, is there a quick start guide for getting off the ground with a project? Do I need to contract an on-call consultant from ARDOT now or do I approach the various entities that would be affected by my project?

A: On-call consultants from ARDOT can be engaged after the project is awarded funding, not during the application process. ARDOT will assist eligible Sponsors throughout the application process. Consultants are responsible for conducting local outreach, identifying potential/eligible sponsors, and determining suitable projects.

Q: How do I get estimates for the project? Do I need more than one consultant?

A: If the Sponsor is using a consultant to assist with the application process, only one consultant is needed to provide project budget estimates. If no consultant is used, it is the Sponsor's responsibility to determine the project budget estimates. While the project budget is a preliminary estimate, it should be as accurate as possible. If additional funding is required after the project is awarded funding, the Sponsor can apply for additional funding in the following application cycle.

Q: I understand that Sponsors can request specific consultants if they are on ARDOT's on-call list. Are you generally able to grant those requests?

A: 2025 will be Local Programs' first round through the on-call consultant process. Many factors will be considered when assigning on-call consultants to a project and ARDOT will make every effort to accommodate requests.

Q: What is the timeline of ROW acquisition through a TAP award? What point do we, the sponsor, need to stop communication with the individual landowner? Or is it better to have some agreement on price before applying for TAP?

A: Any communication with the property owner outside of the federal process will disqualify the project from receiving federal funding. Therefore, do not engage with the property owner before the ARDOT issues a notice to proceed. The process begins with submitting 60% plans, followed by environmental clearance. Once these steps are completed, ARDOT will issue a notice to proceed, after which contact with the property owner is allowed.

Q: The application limits the number of files (10) that can be uploaded. If the file size permits, can we combine multiple letters of support into one PDF and upload as a single file? Does this apply for the non-infrastructure application as well?

A: For both infrastructure and non-infrastructure applications, you can upload as many files as needed. However, to streamline the review process, we recommend limiting uploads to a maximum of 10 files. The application includes several sections for file uploads, allowing flexibility in how you organize your materials.