

AGENDA ITEM #14: TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM: FY 2016 TIMELINE

SUBJECT:

FY 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) tentative timeline.

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), established under MAP-21, provides funding for a variety of transportation activities that were previously eligible for funding under separate programs under SAFETEA-LU, including Transportation Enhancements (TE), Recreational Trails, and Safe Routes to School. It should be noted that some projects that were eligible under TE are not eligible under TAP. The VDOT Local Assistance Division (LAD), in conjunction with Virginia MPOs, coordinates the TAP project selection process in Virginia.

The Transportation Programming Subcommittee (TPS) has recommended the production of a document on the HRTPO process and policies for selecting TAP projects to be funded. HRTPO staff will develop a document for consideration by the TPS during its October 2014 meeting. The document will include background information on the Transportation Alternatives Program, eligible projects and applicants, how to apply for TAP funding, application forms, project evaluation criteria, and HRTPO policies for selection and funding of TAP project proposals.

Important dates associated with the FY 2016 TAP:

- July 2014 – Call for applications (Coordinated by VDOT LAD)
- July/August 2014 – Applicant Workshops
 - August 6, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Smithfield Conference Center
220 North Church Street
Smithfield, VA 23430
- September 17, 2014 – Letter to HRTPO requesting resolution of support
- November 1, 2014 – Application Deadline (Submit to VDOT LAD)
- March 2015 – TPS meeting to review TAP project proposals and select a set of projects to recommend to receive FY 2016 TAP funding
- April 1, 2015 – TTAC meeting – Consider TPS recommendations regarding TAP project selection and funding
- April 16, 2015 – HRTPO Board meeting – Board considers TTAC recommendations regarding TAP project selection and funding and approves a set of projects to receive FY 2016 TAP funding

The attachment for this item includes:

- A Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Fact Sheet on the TAP
- Tentative Timeline for the FY 2016 TAP Project Selection Process
- Information on the TAP Applicant Workshops

For the latest information on the TAP, go to:

<http://www.virginia.gov/business/prenhancegrants.asp>

Mr. Mike Kimbrel, Principal Transportation Engineer, will brief the TTAC on this item.

Attachment 14

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Submit application and request for HRTPO resolution of support by the deadlines indicated above.

FHWA Fact Sheet

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Program purpose

MAP-21 establishes a new program to provide for a variety of alternative transportation projects, including many that were previously eligible activities under separately funded programs. The TAP replaces the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails, Safe Routes to School, and several other discretionary programs, wrapping them into a single funding source.

Statutory citation(s): MAP-21 §1122; 23 USC 101, 206, 213; SAFETEA-LU §1404.

Funding features

The TAP is funded by contract authority from the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Funds are subject to the overall Federal-aid obligation limitation.

An amount equal to 2% of the total amount authorized from the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund for Federal-aid highways each fiscal year (FY) is to be reserved for the TAP. [23 USC 213(a)]

- The national total is divided among States based on each State's proportionate share of FY 2009 Transportation Enhancements funding.
- Within each State, the amount for the TAP is set aside proportionately from the State's National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Surface Transportation Program (STP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and Metropolitan Planning apportionments.

Set-asides

- Unless the Governor opts out in advance, an amount equal to the State's FY 2009 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) apportionment is to be set aside from the State's TAP funds for the RTP. See further detail below under "Program features." [23 USC 213(f)-(g)]

Suballocation

Fifty percent of a State's TAP apportionment (after deducting the set-aside for the RTP, if applicable) is suballocated to areas based on their relative share of the total State population, with the remaining 50 percent available for use in any area of the State. The suballocation is made in the same manner as for STP funds. [23 USC 213(c)] [See the Qs & As on Suballocation of Apportioned Funds for additional detail.]

Transfer of funds

A State may transfer up to 50% of its TAP funds to NHPP, STP, HSIP, CMAQ, and/or Metropolitan Planning. The amount transferred must come from the portion of TAP funds available for use anywhere in the State (no transfers of suballocated TAP funds, or funds set aside for the RTP). [§1509; 23 USC 126]

Federal share: The Federal share for most projects is determined in accordance with 23 USC 120. Federal share for projects funded from funds set aside for the RTP are determined in accordance with 23 USC 206(f).

Eligible activities

Funds may be used for projects or activities that are related to surface transportation and described in the definition of "Transportation Alternatives." [23 USC 101(a)(29)]

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation.
- Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Community improvement activities, including—
 - inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising;
 - historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities;
 - vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and
 - archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under 23 USC.
- Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to—
 - address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff; or
 - reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

In addition to defined Transportation Alternatives (as described above), the

- The recreational trails program under 23 USC 206.
- The safe routes to school program under §1404 of SAFETEA-LU.
- Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

Workforce development, training, and education activities are also eligible uses of TAP funds. [§52004; 23 USC 504(e)]

Program features

Selection of projects

- In general, TAP funds are administered by the State DOT. States administer the RTP through a designated State agency or agencies, which may or may not be the State DOT. [23 USC 206(c) and 213(f)]
- TAP funds must be obligated for eligible projects submitted by eligible entities (see below) through a competitive process. [23 USC 213(c)]
- Funds suballocated to urbanized areas over 200,000 must be on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPO, through a competitive process, selects the projects in consultation with the State from proposed projects submitted by eligible entities. [23 USC 213(c)]
- Funds suballocated to small urban areas and rural areas will be administered by the State. The State, through a competitive process, selects the projects from proposed projects submitted by eligible entities.

Eligible project sponsors

Under 23 USC 213(c)(4)(B), the eligible entities to receive TAP funds are:

- local governments;
- regional transportation authorities;
- transit agencies;
- natural resource or public land agencies;
- school districts, local education agencies, or schools;
- tribal governments; and
- any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a State agency) that the State determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of subsection (c) of section 213 of title 23.

Under TAP, nonprofits are not eligible as direct grant recipients of the funds. Nonprofits are eligible to partner with any eligible entity on an eligible TAP project, if State or local requirements permit.

Treatment of projects

Projects funded under the TAP (excluding projects funded under the RTP set-aside) shall be treated as projects on a Federal-aid highway. [23 USC 213(e)]

Youth conservation corps

States and regional transportation planning agencies are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth service or conservation corps to perform appropriate projects. Such contracts and cooperative agreements are exempt from some Federal-aid highway program contracting requirements. [§1524]

Recreational Trails Program

To provide for the continuation of recreational trails projects, MAP-21 requires each State to set aside a portion of its TAP funds for projects relating to recreational trails under 23 USC 206. [23 USC 213(f)-(g)]

- The amount to be set aside is equal to each State's FY 2009 RTP apportionment.
- 1% of the set-aside funds are to be returned for FHWA administration of the RTP.
- A State may opt out of this set-aside if the Governor notifies the Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the start of a fiscal year. A State opting out may not use TAP funds for RTP administrative costs for that fiscal year.
- If the State does not opt out of the RTP, the RTP provisions and requirements remain unchanged.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

- States have the option to continue eligible SRTS program activities from section 1404 of SAFETEA-LU.
- States are not required to have a State SRTS coordinator but they may use TAP funds to support this position.

Tentative Timeline for FY16 Transportation Alternative Program

Nov 1, 2014	Applicant Deadline
Nov 2014	LAD staff provides initial screening and review of applications; provide electronic copy of application to MPOs/TMAs and SRTS program manager
Nov 15, 2014	LAD staff will send FHWA any eligibility questions for review
Dec 1-12 2014	Hold TAP Quarterly District Coordinators meeting (distribute applications for scoring)
Dec 12, 2014	Applications sent to District Coordinators not attending Quarterly meeting
January 30, 2015	Scores from District Coordinators due back to CO LAD staff
Feb 14, 2015	Application /Readiness Scores sent to MPOs/TMAs
Feb 18, 2015	Application Scores (including Readiness Scores) and Information Packets provided to CTB at Board meeting (February 18)
March 9, 2015	Tentative list of District CTB selections due to the LAD Staff
March 18, 2015	CTB meeting and tentative selections provided
March 18, 2015	Send District CTB selections to MPOs/TMAs
April 2, 2015	LAD recommendations sent to At-Large CTB members
April 4, 2015	Tentative list of MPO/TMA selections sent to the LAD Staff
April 2015	Work with At-Large CTB members to complete selections (by April 16)
April 16, 2015	Tentative CTB and MPO/TMA selections presented at CTB meeting (April 16)
Mid April 2015	Draft provided for SYP Hearings
June 2015	Final selections approved w/the Six Year Improvement Program



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM
(Formally the Transportation Enhancement Program and Safe Routes to School Program)

2014 APPLICANT WORKSHOPS

The “Applicant Workshop” is strongly recommended for localities and other project sponsors that are interested in applying for FY 2016 federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. This year’s application deadline is November 1, 2014. At these workshops we will review the TA program eligibility, application process, and scoring criteria. The workshops last about two hours and are free of charge. For additional information or to register for a workshop please call 1-800-444-7832 (TTY users only, call 711)

Tuesday July 22, 2014 at 10AM

Commonwealth Regional Council
Downstairs Conference Room (“the Mill Room”)
One Mill Street
Farmville, VA 23901

Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 10AM

Montgomery County Government Center
Multi-Purpose Room 2
755 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Wednesday July 30, 2014 at 10AM

VDOT Culpeper District Office
VDOT Culpeper District Office Auditorium
1601 Orange Road (Route 15)
Culpeper, VA 22701

Wednesday August 6, 2014 at 10AM

Smithfield Conference Center
220 North Church Street
Smithfield, VA 23430

Directions to all locations are on the following pages

MAP-21

TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES

Tuesday July 22, 2014 – CRC – “The Mill Room” – (434) 392-6104

From the East: From Route 460 take the 1st Town of Farmville exit. Business 460 west becomes 3rd Street. Follow 3rd Street to the intersection at Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street. Go straight through the light at Main and 2nd Street. Turn left at the next street (1st Street). Follow 1st Street through a sharp curve to the left past "OLD" WAREHOUSE, which is home to Charley's Waterfront Café. 1st Street becomes Mill Street at the sharp curve. The Mill Building parking lot is on the right, with the Mill Building just beyond the parking lot.

From the South: From Route 360 at Keysville take Route 15 north to the Town of Farmville. Route 15 becomes Main Street within the town limits. Follow Main Street past Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, the Moton Museum, and Longwood University. Just past the Prince Edward County Court-house is the light at Main Street and 3rd Street. Go straight through the light and the next light at Main and 2nd Street. Turn left at the next street (1st Street). Follow 1st Street through a sharp curve to the left past "OLD" WAREHOUSE, which is home to Charley's Waterfront Café. First Street becomes Mill Street at the sharp curve. The Mill Building parking lot is on the right, with the Mill Building just beyond the parking lot.

From the West: From Route 460 take the first Town of Farmville exit. Business 460 east becomes 3rd Street. Follow 3rd Street to the intersection at Main Street. Turn left onto Main Street. Go straight through the light at Main and 2nd Street. Turn left at the next street (1st Street). Follow 1st Street through a sharp curve to the left past "OLD" WAREHOUSE, which is home to Charley's Waterfront Café. 1st Street becomes Mill Street at the sharp curve. The Mill Building parking lot is on the right, with the Mill Building just beyond the parking lot.

Parking is also available in the municipal lot across the street.

Wednesday July 23, 2014 – Montgomery County Government Center – (540) 382-3181

From Interstate 81 South: At exit 114 take the ramp right for Route 8 toward Christiansburg/Floyd. Turn right onto Route 8 North/West Main Street. Keep straight onto US11/Route 8/West Main Street. Keep straight onto US11/US460. Keep straight onto US11/US460/Roanoke Street. Arrive at 755 Roanoke Street.

From Interstate 81 North: At exit 114 take the ramp right for Route 8 toward Christiansburg/Floyd. Turn left onto Route 8 North/West Main Street. Keep straight onto US11/Route 8/West Main Street. Keep straight onto US11/US460. Keep straight onto US11/US460/Roanoke Street. Arrive at 755 Roanoke Street.

If you reach East Street, you've gone too far

MAP-21

TRANSPORTATION
ALTERNATIVES

Wednesday July 30, 2014 – VDOT Culpeper District Office Auditorium – (540) 829-7500

From Interstate 95: Take the Route 3 West (Culpeper) exit. Once in Culpeper, turn left at the first traffic light (Orange Road/Route 15). Go approx. ¼ mi. and turn left into the Culpeper District Office Complex.

From the North along Route 29: Take the Rte. 3 / Rte. 522 exit toward Culpeper and then follow the above directions.

From the South along Route 29: Take the Culpeper/Route 15 exit. Go approx. 1 mi. and turn right into the Culpeper District Office Complex.

Wednesday August 6, 2014 - Smithfield Conference Center – (757) 356-9939

From the East other than Route 460: Take Route 10/258 Bypass to the intersection of Route 10/258 and Main Street (approx. 2 miles after Cypress Creek Golf Course on the left). Turn right at the stop light onto Main Street. Turn left at the North Church Street. The Smithfield Center will be on the right.

From the East via Route 460: Turn right on Route 258 at Windsor. Stay on Route 258 (Courthouse Highway) Courthouse Road when it becomes Main Street at the Town limits. Stay on Main Street until the intersection of North Church Street. Turn left at North Church Street. The Smithfield Center is on your left.

From the West via Route 460: Turn left on Route 620 (Foursquare Road) at Ivor. Turn left on Route 258 (Courthouse Highway) Courthouse Road becomes Main Street at the Town limits. Stay on Main Street until the intersection of North Church Street. Turn left at North Church Street. The Smithfield Center is on your left.