

PSRC's 2021 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY

The following is a summary of eligibility information from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), a set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program.¹ The full FHWA guidance memorandum may be found [here](#).

For additional questions on eligibility, please contact Sarah Gutschow at sgutschow@psrc.org or (206) 587-4822.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The following are eligible project categories for the TAP funding.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- 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.
- [Recreational Trails Program](#) (RTP) eligible projects and activities.²
- [Safe Routes to School](#) (SRTS) program eligible projects and activities³, including:
 - Infrastructure-related projects
 - Non-infrastructure activities
 - SRTS coordinator
- Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

Historic Resources

- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.
- Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project.

Environmental

- 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.

¹ As a note, the FAST Act eliminated the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program and replaced it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding for transportation alternatives. These set-aside funds include all projects and activities that were previously eligible under the TAP. For purposes of the PSRC competition we will continue to refer to the set-aside as the Transportation Alternatives Program.

² A portion of Washington State's TAP funds was set aside to fund the state's Recreational Trails Program.

³ For SRTS non-infrastructure projects, traffic education and enforcement activities must take place within approximately two miles of a primary or middle school (grades K - 8). Other eligible non-infrastructure activities do not have a location restriction. SRTS infrastructure projects are eligible for TAP funds regardless of their ability to serve school populations, and SRTS infrastructure projects are broadly eligible under other TAP eligibilities, which do not have any location restrictions.

- Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
- Community improvement activities, which include but are not limited to:
 - Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising.
 - Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

NON- ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

TAP funds cannot be used for:

- State or MPO administrative purposes, except for SRTS administration, and administrative costs of the state permitted for RTP set-aside funds.
- Promotional activities, except as permitted under the SRTS.
- Routine maintenance and operations.
- General recreation and park facilities, playground equipment, sports fields, campgrounds, picnic areas and pavilions, etc.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT SPONSORS

Eligible project sponsors under this program include the following:

- Local governments
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal governments
- 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

State DOTs and MPOs are not eligible project sponsors for TAP funds. However, state DOTs and MPOs may partner with an eligible entity project sponsor to carry out a project.

Nonprofit organizations are not eligible as direct grant subrecipients for TAP funds unless they qualify through one of the eligible entity categories (e.g., where a nonprofit organization is a designated transit agency, school, or an entity responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs). Nonprofit entities are eligible to partner with any eligible entity on an eligible project if state or local requirements permit.