

Program Overview & Funding Eligibility

The Transportation Alternatives Program was created by MAP-21 and eliminated in name only by the FAST Act. The FAST Act replaces it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right of way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

A full list of eligible activities can be found under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance](#), Section E. Note that the Kentucky Department for Local Government administers funding for the state Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

In Kentucky, eligible TAP applicants are limited to local governments, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, 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) the state determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of subsection (c) of section 213 of title 23.

Nonprofits are not eligible as direct grant recipients of the funds. However, a nonprofit may partner with a city or county government, with the local government acting as the applicant.

Private organizations are not eligible for funding. However, they may partner with an eligible applicant through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the eligible sponsor as the applicant.

Application Deadline, Submittal, & Selection Process

All applications must be submitted electronically. Applications and the required attachments should be saved as a .pdf file. Email applications to KYTC.OLP@ky.gov with “TAP Application – Project Name” in the subject line.

- The Office of Local Programs (OLP) will send a confirmation email once an application is received. **If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact OLP to ensure receipt of the application.**
- As applications are received, OLP will review the applications with FHWA and other KYTC staff to determine eligibility.
- TAP projects are subject to a competitive process, and project applications will be scored based on the information provided and the applicant’s performance history on any previous OLP projects.
- Once scored, ranked eligible applications are then submitted for review and selection by the Governor’s Office.
- Applicants selected for funding will be notified once the final selection has taken place.
- Please email questions to KYTC.OLP@ky.gov.

General Instructions

Applicants must complete all sections of the application. Applications submitted with missing or incomplete information will be returned for corrections and the applicant will only have until the end of the application cycle to return the corrected form.

Only use the application form provided (TC 20-36). Attach the required documents specified under “Required Application Attachments” below. Do not attach additional documents.

Section 1: Applicant Information

Applicants must be one of the eligible applicants described in the FHWA TAP Guidance.

All projects receiving federal funding must complete an Application for Federal Assistance (Form 424) with the Kentucky State Clearinghouse. Once this has been submitted, the project will be assigned a State Applicant Identifier (SAI) number. Applicants must submit Form 424 on the eClearinghouse website and provide the SAI number as part of this application.

System For Award Management (SAM) Requirements

All applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) before applying for funding. To register, go to <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>. The Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned by SAM to the applicant must be included in the application. If selected for funding, the applicant must maintain an active UEI for during the course of the project.

Section 2: Project Category

All federal TAP projects must have a surface transportation relationship. Activities that fall under one of the funding categories, but do not have a surface transportation relationship, are not eligible for funding.

Section 3: Project Description

A concise, yet detailed, project description is necessary. List each location for which funding is requested and describe all work to be completed using federal funds. The form for this section is designed for one project location only. If multiple locations are involved, multiple pages must be completed.

Section 4: Project Readiness

Once a project has been selected to receive funding, and the project sponsor has been notified, the project should be ready to begin. The information requested in this section helps the reviewers determine whether the project can begin in a timely fashion and the applicant's readiness to undertake a federal-aid project.

Section 5: Project Cost

The information provided in this section helps determine the amount of funding for a project. Take into account each phase of the project and all the work that will need to be completed. Review the KYTC LPA Guide to see all the requirements that must be fulfilled if the project is selected to receive funding. This should help in preparing the cost estimate. An engineer's estimate is also required as part of the application.

LPA projects require full-time inspection by a qualified inspector as detailed in the [KYTC LPA Guide](#). Inspection costs within the project budget section should reflect full-time inspection.

If the proposed application is selected for funding, only the specific project and approved items will be eligible. Funding cannot be transferred nor is it eligible for major project scope changes. All unused funds will revert back to the KYTC TAP funding program.

Applications selected for award are vetted, but the design process may require further modifications to the project. This can mean the cost will increase. The LPA is responsible for any cost overruns and the KYTC will not increase the federal award amount.

TAP projects require a 20% match. Only cash or property can be used as match.

Section 6: Connectivity/Project Impact/Community Support

FHWA guidance encourages states to prioritize using TAP set-aside funding to advance promotion of safety, equity, and climate sustainability consistent with FHWA policy. This section is designed to demonstrate how the project contributes to one or more of these goals. Please provide detailed or statistical information.

Required Application Attachments**Attachment A – Location Map(s) of Proposed Site(s)**

Attach an aerial location map for the proposed project. For SRTS projects, maps should show that the proposed project is within 2 miles of an elementary or middle school.

Attachment B – Detailed Engineer’s Estimate

This estimate must be attached and will be used to assess the project construction costs.