



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 600

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

JAMES S. SIMPSON
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

March 11, 2014

Re: Transportation Alternatives Program
Request for Applications

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of Governor Chris Christie, I am pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This solicitation is being administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), in partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO).

TAP provides federal funds for community based "non-traditional" projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal system. The TAP program was established by Congress in 2012 under MAP-21, and is funded through a set-aside of the Federal-aid Highway Program. Eligible activities include most activities historically funded as "Transportation Enhancements" under SAFETEA-LU.

The State of New Jersey has elected to run a hybrid program for this solicitation, providing maximum flexibility in using both SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21 funds. This solicitation includes categories from the SAFETEA-LU Transportation Enhancement Program and others from the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program.

For this solicitation, eligible projects must fall into one the following 7 categories:

- Provisions of facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Scenic or historic highway programs, including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities as well as scenic turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
- Historic preservation.
- Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures and facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails).
- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.

You are invited to submit an application for a well-developed, construction-ready project that can qualify as a Transportation Alternatives project. The online Transportation Alternatives Handbook provides the necessary information for completing your application and also answers questions regarding eligibility and program requirements. The information can be found at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/Alternatives.shtm>

The eligible entities to receive TAP funds are: local governments (municipalities and counties); regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; natural resource or public land agencies; tribal governments and any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a State agency).

Nonprofit organizations will not be directly eligible to apply for this solicitation. However, nonprofit organizations may partner with a local public agency that will assume responsibility and administration for the grant.

As with all federally funded programs, the funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. In addition, the award of Transportation Alternatives grants will be contingent upon the recipient's ability to comply with all applicable federal financial management, project implementation, and oversight regulations. Before applying, applicants should assess their capability to comply with state and federal requirements for the administration of federal-aid highway grants set forth in Title 23 – Highways; 48 CFR – Federal Acquisition Regulation; and 49 CFR 18 – the Common Grant Rule.

Please note that all public right-of-way and facilities are required to be accessible for all users regardless of funding source. Recipients of federal and state grants will be required to comply with the provisions of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

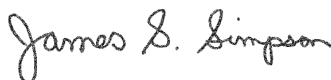
Applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program are due on or before May 15, 2014 and must be submitted online through NJDOT SAGE at:

<https://enterprisegrantapps.state.nj.us/NJSAGE/>

I recommend that you consult your Local Aid District Office and your corresponding Metropolitan Planning Organization for assistance in preparing applications for this program. Contact information is included.

Thank you for your continued interest and support for this program, and best wishes for success with your project application.

Sincerely,



James S. Simpson
Commissioner

Enclosure

c County Engineer
Municipal Clerk
Municipal Engineer

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