TxDOT’s 2021 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Call for Projects

Program Overview
January 25, 2021
Workshop Agenda

**TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects Overview**
- Funding program overview
- Application process

**Local Government Project Procedures**
- Federal and state requirements
  - Professional services
  - Construction

**Best Practices for Detailed Applications**
- Design details
- Maps, exhibits, and photographs
- Planning and public support
- Budget considerations
- Project readiness
TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects Overview

Agenda

• Funding opportunity
• Program Call fundamentals
• Two-step application process
  • What’s new for 2021
  • Call for Projects timeline
• Characteristics
• Additional information
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Transportation Alternatives (TA)

- **Available TA Funds**
  - FY 21-22 funds (must let within 3 years)
  - Nonurban areas (~$10.5M)

- **Future TA Funds**
  - Anticipated FY 23-24 funds (must let within 3 years)
  - Conditional Project List
    - Small urban (~13M) and nonurban areas (~13M)
Federal Funding for Non-Motorized Transportation: 30-Year History

Transportation Enhancements (TE)
- 1991: ISTEA
- 1998: TEA-21
- 2005: SAFETEA-LU

Transportation Alternatives (TAP)
- 2012: MAP-21

Safe Routes to Schools
- 2005: SAFETEA-LU

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)
- 2015: FAST Act

Future Bike/Ped Funding Program
- 202?: Next federal transportation bill
Available Nonurban TA FY21/22 Funding

Eligible project locations:
- Projects must be located outside the smoothed boundary of Census Urbanized Areas greater than 200,000 in population, known as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)

Eligible population areas:
- Nonurban communities (5,000 people or less)

Funding available:
- ~$10.5 million

Local match requirement:
- 20%
- Communities that meet certain size and economic criteria may be eligible for Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) – federal funding used for match requirements (discussed in more detail in later slides)

Eligible reimbursable activities:
- Project construction
- Preliminary engineering (design and environmental documentation)
- TxDOT administrative fee

TA projects must be let within 3 years or risk losing funding

TA projects must be let within 3 years or risk losing funding
Future Nonurban & Small Urban TA FY23/24 Funds (Conditional Project List)

Eligible project locations:
- Projects must be located outside the smoothed boundary of TMAs

Eligible population areas:
- Nonurban communities (5,000 people or less)
- Small urban communities (5,001 to 200,000 people)

FUTURE funding anticipated (FY 23/FY 24):
- ~$13 million nonurban & ~$13 million small urban

Local match requirement:
- 20%
- Communities that meet certain size and economic criteria may be eligible for TDCs – federal funding used for match requirements (discussed in more detail in later slides)
- Communities that meet certain size and economic criteria may be eligible for Economically Disadvantaged Counties Program (EDCP) – state-participation to reduce local match requirements (discussed in more detail in later slides)

Eligible reimbursable activities:
- Project construction
- Preliminary engineering (design and environmental documentation) for communities of 50,000 or less in population

TA projects must be let within 3 years or risk losing funding

- TxDOT administrative fee
What is the Conditional Project List?

- A prioritized, fiscally constrained list of the highest scoring projects that will be recommended to the Commission for TA funding once funding becomes available.

- At the end of this Call for Projects, TxDOT will develop a prioritized Conditional Project List for:
  - $13M future small urban TA funding
  - $13M future nonurban TA funding

- When next federal transportation bill is passed, TxDOT will recommend projects for funding by the Texas Transportation Commission based on:
  - Initial project ranking (as a result of this process)
  - Project readiness
  - Available funding

To proceed with projects identified for the 2019 TA Conditional Project List, do not resubmit the same project under TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects.
## 2021 TA Call for Projects: **Funding Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Group</th>
<th>Project Sponsor Population Size¹</th>
<th>Local Match²</th>
<th>Eligible Activities</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonurban TA</td>
<td>&lt;5,001</td>
<td></td>
<td>Preliminary Engineering &amp; Construction</td>
<td>$10.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,001 to 50,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Preliminary Engineering &amp; Construction</td>
<td>Conditional Project List³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,001 to 200,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction only</td>
<td>Conditional Project List³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ TxDOT's TA funds must be administered outside Transportation Management Areas.

² Some project sponsors may be eligible for a reduction in local match. See Program Guide.

³ Conditional Project Lists will be created to assist TxDOT in prioritizing Nonurban and Small Urban projects for anticipated future federal TA appropriations of $13 million for nonurban and $13 million for small urban to the department for FY 2023 - 2024. Once funds become available, projects on the list will be recommended to the commission for consideration for project award.
PROGRAM CALL FUNDAMENTALS
TDOT/FHWA TA rules for Population Areas less than 200,000

• Federal TA Set-Aside Program is contained in 23 U.S.C. §133(h)

• Review FHWA guidance at: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/guidance_2016.cfm

• Based on FHWA guidance, MPO’s designated as a TMA will conduct an independent competitive Call for Projects

• TDOT’s TA Set-Aside Program for population areas of 200,000 or less operates under rules adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission) found in 43 Texas Administrative Code §§11.400 - §11.418 and §§16.153 - §16.154
TA projects

- Local governments
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit responsible for administration of local transportation safety programs
- Other governmental entity responsible for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than an MPO or a state agency)
TA eligible activities:

- Bicycle infrastructure improvements
- Shared use paths
- Sidewalk improvements
- Infrastructure-related projects to improve safety for non-motorized transportation
Eligible Project Activities – TA

- Shared Use Paths
- Bicycle infrastructure improvements
- Non-motorized safety improvements
- Sidewalk improvements
Project sponsors are strongly encouraged to submit projects that:

- Improve safety, access, or mobility for people of all ages and abilities, especially on-system improvements (within TxDOT right-of-way) in support of TxDOT’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)/pedestrian initiatives.

- Construct segments identified as part of Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails network or implement a locally-preferred alternate route.

- Improve bicycling, wheelchair, and walking access to or between existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transportation, or mobility hubs that integrate multiple modes of transportation (such as transit stops, carsharing, bikesharing, micromobility, or other shared-mobility services).

- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian access and safety to school-related destinations enabling and encouraging children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school activities.
Eligible Phases of Work

- For TxDOT’s TA funds, **federally reimbursable phases** include
  - Construction and construction-related activities (all projects)
  - Preliminary engineering and environmental documentation (projects in population areas of 50,000 or less)
  - TxDOT’s direct state costs (all projects)
- The Detailed Application must include estimated costs for all activities for which the project sponsor is seeking reimbursement
- Reimbursable activities are limited to actual, documented costs incurred **after**:
  - Project award,
  - Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA),
  - Federal Project Authorization & Agreement (FPAA), and
  - TxDOT authorization to proceed

**Federal and State requirements must be met for all activities with federal participation**
Bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure must:

- Be principally for transportation rather than purely recreational
- Contribute to a safe, contiguous, accessible, integrated walking and/or bicycling network
- Benefit the general public

**Examples:**

- X A project located entirely within a school campus or park that is used for internal circulation only - INELIGIBLE
- ✓ A project along a greenbelt that is part of a long-distance bicycle/pedestrian network – ELIGIBLE
  - Circle Trail in Wichita Falls
  - Katy Trail in Denison
  - Northeast Texas Trail
TxDOT’s TA funds must be administered outside Census Urbanized Areas of 200,000 or greater, known as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs).

Nonurban
Population areas of 5,000 or less located outside TMAs

Small Urban
Population areas of 5,001 to 200,000 located outside TMAs
2010 U.S. Census Urbanized Area boundary with a population of 200,000 or greater. Referred to as a Transportation Management Area (TMA).

Together the MPO and state Department of Transportation (DOTs) refine the urbanized area boundaries based on logical characteristics with concurrence from FHWA. This results in the **smoothed** boundary of the TMA.
**TA and Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)/MPOs**

**Additional rules:**

- Projects located within a TMA are not eligible for TxDOT’s TA funding. (Project A)

- Projects located **outside** the TMA but **inside** MPO boundaries may be eligible for TA funding through Calls for Projects administered by either TxDOT or the MPO. (Project B)

- The same project cannot be submitted to both TxDOT and the MPO for TA funding concurrently.
TWO-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS
What’s New for TxDOT’s 2021 TA Program Call? (page 1 of 2)

1) Project sponsors are limited to three applications per sponsoring entity.

2) In-kind contributions are no longer allowed as a local match option.

3) Projects in a population area of 50,000 or less can request reimbursement of preliminary engineering activities, including costs for design and environmental documentation.
4) Projects in a population area of 50,000 or less **may be eligible** to use state Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) that allow for 100% federal TA funds to be applied to the project in lieu of a local match.*

![Economic criteria met](image)

<50k + Economic criteria met = Transportation Development Credits (TDCs)

5) TA Program evaluation criteria were updated to align with TxDOT’s mission, *Connecting You With Texas.*

* Economically Disadvantaged Counties Program remains available for communities greater than 50,000 in population.
2021 TA Call for Projects: Timeline

Refer to Table 1 in Program Guide for list of target dates.
STEP 1: Project sponsor submits preliminary application (PA)

PA is a fillable, PDF form which includes high-level project details:

- Project sponsor information:
  - Contact information
  - Population area and location

- Project information:
  - Name, location, description
  - Project type
  - Funding opportunity pursuing
  - High-level cost estimates
  - Project complexity


Due: March 1, 2021
STEP 1: TxDOT District Review Meeting with Project Sponsor

Project sponsors are expected to meet with TxDOT District staff to review proposed projects to:
- Discuss TA program details with project sponsor
- Understand proposed project concept and complexities
- Discuss cost estimates
- Identify project readiness

District meeting timeframe:
- Nonurban & Small Urban TA sponsors – by 4/9/2021

Project sponsors should contact the District TA Coordinator to set up the District meeting if they have not been contacted by March 15, 2021.
STEP 1: TxDOT-PTN Completes Eligibility Review

After March 1, TxDOT-PTN will review all submitted PAs to determine eligibility of:

- project sponsor,
- project location, and
- project activities

Timeframe:
All project sponsors will be notified of funding program eligibility by April 12, 2021

A project that does not successfully complete Step 1 will not be evaluated in Step 2.
STEP 2: Project sponsor submits detailed application (DA)

All eligible projects move to Step 2. DA is an Excel-based form which collects comprehensive information about the proposed project. Topics include:

- Questions addressing evaluation criteria
- Typical sections, project layout, and maps
- Detailed construction budget
- Demonstration of project readiness
- Resolution indicating local support and commitment to implement project (if awarded funds)

Timeframe:

- Detailed Application for all eligible project sponsors due 6/14/21
**STEP 2: Project evaluation**

**Evaluation Process:**
- Once submitted, each DA is scored based on evaluation criteria
- TxDOT District staff and Division subject matter experts evaluate overall feasibility/constructability

**Target Milestones:**
- Summer 2021: TxDOT completes project evaluation
- October 2021: Commission consideration for available funding
- October 2021: Conditional project list posted

**Criteria Evaluation Categories**
## TxDOT's 2021 TA Program Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Project Readiness</th>
<th>Geographic Equity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Demonstrates need for safety improvement and appropriate safety countermeasures</td>
<td>• Demonstrates the ability to advance the project to construction immediately, if selected for funding</td>
<td>• Improves mode choice in under-served communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provides safer and/or less intimidating accommodations for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized travel</td>
<td>• Identifies comprehensive, detailed construction cost estimate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td>• Meets and/or exceeds design criteria established by US Access Board, FHWA, AASHTO, TxDOT, and/or NACTO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supports investments in local/interregional tourism, especially Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails</td>
<td>• Past project sponsor performance on previous TxDOT-administered projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivty &amp; Accessibility</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improves non-motorized routes and access to destinations of interest, including business districts, downtowns, and employment centers; schools, services, and active living/health facilities</td>
<td>• Demonstrates need for safety improvement and appropriate safety countermeasures</td>
<td>• Improves access to higher density residential and/or employment centers (Small Urban only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td>• Provides safer and/or less intimidating accommodations for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eliminates barriers to pedestrians, bicycles, and wheelchairs</td>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supports investments in local/interregional tourism, especially Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails</td>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Support</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public outreach demonstrates positive community support</td>
<td>• Demonstrates need for safety improvement and appropriate safety countermeasures</td>
<td>• Improves access to higher density residential and/or employment centers (Small Urban only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Established community partnerships commit to collaboratively implement project</td>
<td>• Provides safer and/or less intimidating accommodations for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Project demonstrates a link to formal transportation planning efforts (Small Urban only)</td>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consideration of small communities with limited planning resources in the Small Urban funding category (Small Urban only)</td>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Demonstrates commitment to provide the local match and maintenance of facility once complete</td>
<td>• Supports multi-modal connections</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
TxDOT’s 2021 TA PROGRAM
LOCAL MATCH OPTIONS
Local Match for TA Funding

- Federal TA program requires 20% minimum local match for construction
- TxDOT offers flexibility in local match for construction:
  - Cash
  - Transportation Development Credits (TDCs)
  - Economically Disadvantaged Counties Program (EDCP)
  - Overmatch
- The 20% local match for TxDOT’s administrative cost can be provided by project sponsors utilizing the local match options outlined above
TxDOT’s 2021 TA Program: Transportation Development Credits (TDCs)

For TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects:

1. Project must be located in a population area of 50,000 or less located outside of a designated TMA, and
2. Project is located in an economically disadvantaged county certified by commission at the time TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects opens, or
3. Project is located in a city, Census designated place (CDP), or rural area that meets all of the following criteria:
   - Below state average per capita taxable property value
   - Below state average per capita income, and
   - Above state average unemployment

For projects in eligible areas, TDCs allow for 100% federal TA funds to be applied to the project in lieu of a local match.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; 2018 City Rates and Levies, Total Property Market Value and U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 5-Year American Community Survey, Table DP05, Total Population
U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 5-Year Community Survey, Table DP03, Per Capita Income
U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 5-Year Community Survey, Table DP03, Civilian Unemployment Rate

https://txdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=01fa15525e9e4be68a43c06dc06ce2e6
TxDOT identifies economically disadvantaged counties annually based on meeting three criteria:

- Below average per capita taxable property value,
- Below average per capita income, and
- Above average unemployment

- For TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects, EDCP will be considered for projects in **population areas greater than 50,000**
- Projects located along or immediately adjacent to on- or off-system roadways that are in an economically disadvantaged county may be eligible for a reduction to local match requirement
- The 2021 EDCP reduction percentage will be used for projects selected for funding under TxDOT’s 2021 TA Call for Projects
- A separate EDCP application must be completed after the project is selected for TA funding and before the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) is signed
- The county must retain EDCP eligibility at the time the AFA is signed to receive the adjustment

FOR MORE INFORMATION...
Virtual Meeting Dates/Times

- **January 21, 2021 (1:00PM – 4:00PM)**
  - REGISTRATION: [https://2021_ta_projspon_workshop1.eventbrite.com](https://2021_ta_projspon_workshop1.eventbrite.com)

- **January 25, 2021 (1:00PM – 4:00PM)**
  - REGISTRATION: [https://2021_ta_projspon_workshop2.eventbrite.com](https://2021_ta_projspon_workshop2.eventbrite.com)

- **January 27, 2021 (9:00AM – 12:00PM)**
  - REGISTRATION: [https://2021_ta_projspon_workshop3.eventbrite.com](https://2021_ta_projspon_workshop3.eventbrite.com)

Registration is required.
TxDOT-PTN Bike/Ped Website

https://www.txdot.gov

Available now:
• Program Guide
• Preliminary Application
• Preliminary Application Instructions
• Interactive map showing TMAs/TDCs

Available later:
• Workshop presentations
• FAQs
• Detailed Application
• Detailed Application Instructions

Thank you!

For additional questions and comments, contact:

To discuss project-specific issues, please contact your District TA/SRTS Coordinator


Email any funding program or application questions to:

BikePed@txdot.gov
by January 28, 2021

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