TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) authorized under Section 1122 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 213(b), 101(a)(29)) provides approximately $72 million in funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-road 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; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for the planning, design or construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. Five million dollars in funding is transferred annually to the Recreational Trails Program.

Eligible Activities: Under 23 U.S.C. 213(b) eligible activities under the TAP consist of:

   A. Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized 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.
   B. 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.
   C. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
   D. Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
   E. Community improvement activities, including:
      i. inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising;
      ii. historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities;
      iii. vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and
      iv. archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under title 23.
F. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to-
   i. address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities described in sections 133(b)(11), 328(a), and 329 of title 23; or
   ii. reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

2. The recreational trails program under section 206 of title 23.

3. The safe routes to school program under section 1404 of the SAFETEA-LU.
   A. Infrastructure-related projects - Planning, design, and construction of infrastructure-related projects on any public road or any bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail in the vicinity of schools that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools.
   B. Non-infrastructure-related activities to encourage walking and bicycling to school, including public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders, traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools, student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health, and environment, and funding for training, volunteers, and managers of safe routes to school programs.
   C. Safe Routes to School coordinator.

4. Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

**Eligible Entities** - Under 23 U.S.C. 213(c)(4)(B), 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, Caltrans, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and nonprofits are not eligible as direct grant recipients of the funds. Caltrans, MPOs, and nonprofits are eligible to partner with any eligible entity on an eligible TAP project.
**Period of Availability:** TAP funds are available for obligation for a period of 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the funds are authorized.

**Federal share:** The Federal share in California is 88.53%.

**Use of the Youth Service and Conservation Corps:** The following section of MAP-21 is also applicable to TAP:

a. Section 1524 Use of Youth Service and Conservation Corps

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**Contact the Statewide Coordinator,** April Nitsos at (916) 653-8450
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