



# Michigan Department of Transportation

## Transportation Enhancement Program

### Program Background

- The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program was established with passage of the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, reauthorized in 1998 in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and again in 2005 under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
- The TE program is a 10 percent set-aside of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.
- In FY2003, the TE set-aside from Michigan's STP allocation totaled \$25 million.
- The TE program is administered by the Office of Transportation Economic Development and Enhancement (TEDE) of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

### Eligible Activities

SAFETEA-LU specifies the following 12 activities as eligible for TE program funding:

#### *Nonmotorized Transportation*

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (Including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists

#### *Transportation Aesthetics*

- Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, including historic battlefields
- Inventory, control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities)

#### *Historic Preservation*

- Historic preservation
- Archaeological planning and research
- Establishment of transportation museums
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)

#### *Water Quality & Wildlife*

- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat continuity

### Program Requirements

- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, villages, transit agencies, MDOT, Native American tribes, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and metropolitan planning organizations. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications.
- TE funding requires matching funds of at least 20% of project cost.
- Proposed TE projects must have a relationship to surface transportation.

### How to Apply

- Visit the webpage, [www.michigan.gov/tea](http://www.michigan.gov/tea) for online or mail-in application forms and instructions, or call TEDE at (517) 335-1069 for information. Applications may be submitted at any time.



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What types of projects are competitive for TE funding?

### Nonmotorized Category

- Nonmotorized facilities that:
  - connect and develop documented regional or statewide trail systems
  - are appropriate for the need and user types targeted
  - benefit state tourism or economic development initiatives
  - if locally significant, have strong transportation connection and involve planning efforts or serve as connectors to regional trails
  - are a priority on MDOT, county or regional trail plans
  - address documented safety deficiencies
  - are part of a broader non-TE funded nonmotorized system
- Nonmotorized amenities that increase usability of nonmotorized facilities

### Transportation Aesthetics Category

- Scenic Acquisitions that:
  - protect viewsheds of the Great Lakes and/or provide a benefit to state tourism
- Streetscapes that:
  - are located in traditional downtowns or historic districts
  - meet published MDOT streetscape guidelines
  - use a creative design approach and take into account the community identity, history, context, and the human environment
  - accomplish multiple goals (traffic calming, pedestrian safety, tied with other initiatives, water quality improvements, etc.)
  - receive input and support from citizens, local businesses, economic developers, traffic engineers, historians, etc.
- Highway Landscaping that:
  - defines a gateway to an important location
  - screens an area that creates a negative visual impact from the highway
  - accomplishes multiple goals (water quality improvements, native plants, traffic calming, etc.)

### Historic Preservation Category

- Historic preservation projects that:
  - enhance National Register-listed historic districts, locally designated districts or National Heritage Areas
  - preserve original structure on site (off site if only option available for bridges)
  - promote cultural tourism

### Water Quality Category

- Water Quality projects that:
  - will have a positive effect on important watersheds or water bodies with sensitive fisheries or that is not attaining the state water quality standards
  - include monitoring after implementation or projections of water quality improvement
  - are consistent with a local watershed management plan
  - include an inspection and maintenance schedule

### Wildlife Mortality Category

- Wildlife Mortality projects that:
  - involve threatened or endangered species
  - improve safety by directly lowering vehicle/animal collisions
  - are research or study oriented in regards to design and highway planning



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### What other factors make a project competitive for TE funding?

- **Financial factors:**
  - realistic expectations and cost
  - a high level of overmatch (40% and higher, ability to pay is considered)
  - non-participating work is determined to be a benefit to the TE project
- **Public input:**
  - projects receiving a high level of public input from multiple partners
- **Coordinated efforts:**
  - paired with other infrastructure work
  - part of an economic development or community improvement initiative
  - coordinated with statewide initiatives such as Cool Cities, Cities of Promise, the Safe Routes to School Program, Heritage Route or Scenic Byways Program
- **Maintenance factors:**
  - strong maintenance plan that speaks to tasks, schedule, cost, source of maintenance funding, and responsible parties
- **Previous TE funding:**
  - amount of TE investment in prior years
  - timely implementation and maintenance on previous projects

### What items are ineligible for TE funding?

Eligible costs are those costs determined by federal TE program guidance and by MDOT to be consistent with achieving the intention of 12 activity categories set forth in the federal law. Some project development costs may meet the federal eligibility criteria but are ruled ineligible by MDOT for programmatic purposes — primarily to enable the limited TE funds to support more projects. MDOT usually considers the following costs to be ineligible for funding:

- Design engineering
- Construction engineering
- Project administration
- Environmental clearance and mitigation
- Construction extras and cost overruns

Various project elements also deemed ineligible for funding include the following:

- Annual plantings
- Banners
- Building facades (except for historic transportation buildings)
- Burying utility lines
- Clock towers
- Curb and gutter (negotiable in a water quality project)
- Decorative fountains
- Decorative street signs
- Electrical for tree lighting
- Irrigation
- Items required as federal aid project mitigation
- Public art
- Speaker systems
- Landscaping of property (as opposed to road ROW)
- Wayfinding primarily for vehicular use
- Welcome signs

For many projects, these ineligible costs may be characterized as non-participating costs.

**\* It is highly recommended that you contact a TE Grant Coordinator at 517-335-1069 to discuss your proposed project before filling out a grant application.**