



Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Frequently Asked Questions

The following document provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Please contact your grant coordinator if you are unable to find the answer to your question on this page. For help with an online application, please contact 517-335-1069.

What is TAP?

TAP is a competitive grant program that funds projects, such as bicycle facilities, multi-use paths, streetscape improvements that improve pedestrian safety, and historic preservation of transportation facilities that enhance Michigan's intermodal transportation system, promote walkability, and improve quality of life for Michigan citizens. The program uses federal transportation funds designated by Congress for these types of activities.

Who is eligible to apply for TAP funds?

Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, villages, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, state and federal natural resource or public land agencies, and tribal governments. MDOT may partner with a local agency to apply for funding and implement the project. Other organizations such as townships or trail groups, may work with an eligible agency to apply.

How do I apply for TAP funds?

To apply for TAP funds, simply fill out an online application. A help guide for the online application is available on the same Web site.

Is there a deadline for submitting a TAP application?

Applications are accepted year-round. The program holds Application Review Committee meetings four times per year to determine which applications will be recommended for selection. See the Grant Application Planning Guide for the dates that will assist you in planning your project timelines for potential grant applications.

When should I start working with my grant coordinator?

You should call or e-mail your grant coordinator before you start your application to discuss your project/application.

Does TAP allow soft match?

No, only hard match (cash) or real estate donated to the project are allowed, such as the right of way for a nonmotorized path.

What is the required match for my project?

TAP requires matching funds of at least 20 percent of the project cost. Additional consideration is given to projects whose match exceeds the minimum required. The average match is 35 percent.

Why do nonmotorized paths have to meet AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards?

MDOT has adopted AASHTO as the standard for all projects that it funds. The AASHTO standard of 10-foot path with 2-foot shoulders on each side is considered a safety standard.

Does TAP pay to bury utilities?

No. An exception would be burying wires associated with new streetlights for a streetscape. Please discuss this with your grant coordinator.

Does TAP fund removal and replacement of (standard) sidewalks?

Generally, no. Funding for sidewalks is typically limited to traditional downtown business districts with a high level of pedestrian activity or short connections to regional nonmotorized networks. The existing condition of the sidewalks is also considered.