

**2019 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) SET-ASIDE
SOLICITATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**
UPDATED: 4/3/19

Since releasing the original project solicitation for the 2019 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program, CRCOG staff have received clarification questions. Questions and responses are available below.

1. **Question:** While projects cannot be combined to meet the \$500,000 minimum project cost, would a project encompassing several facilities (for example improvements to / construction of a series of bus shelters) be eligible?
 - CRCOG staff's initial assessment was that this type of project would be allowable if the Town could show how the improvements work together as a larger, systematic improvement. The Connecticut Department of Transportation confirmed that such a project would be acceptable under existing TA Set-Aside eligibility requirements. **As noted in the solicitation, however, project eligibility may be altered under future transportation funding legislation. As such, no project's eligibility is guaranteed.**

2. **Question:** Would trails through a park be an eligible project?
 - The FAST Act eliminated the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and replaced it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for transportation alternatives (TA Set-Aside). All projects and activities that were eligible under TAP remained eligible under the TA Set-Aside Program, including a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. Additional information regarding project eligibility can be found here:
 - FAST Act TA Set-Aside Fact Sheet: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm>
 - MAP-21 TAP Fact Sheet: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/factsheets/tap.cfm>
 - **As noted in the solicitation, however, project eligibility may be altered under future transportation funding legislation. As such, no project's eligibility is guaranteed.**
 - In addition to general eligibility, projects should be proposed that will address the selection criteria approved by CRCOG's Transportation Committee:
 - High number of potential users
 - Safety benefit
 - Cultural, historic, and aesthetic enhancement
 - Length of useful life
 - Relationship to other projects/future projects
 - Economic development benefit
 - Regional/statewide significance
 - Environmental benefit/minimization of impact
 - Supports multi-modal travel

3. **Question:** Is a project that is already partially funded under DEEP's Recreational Trails Grant Program eligible to apply under this solicitation?
- Per guidance that we have received from CTDOT, projects that have been partially funded under State grant programs – including DEEP's Recreational Trails Grant Program – are eligible to apply for additional TA Set-Aside funds. Further, such grant monies can be used to satisfy the local match requirement. Please note, however, that Federal funds and LOTCIP funds cannot be used as a local match.