

**TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)
2024 SOLICITATION GUIDANCE
DRAFT – MARCH 15, 2024**

ELIGIBILITY

For a project to receive Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding it must meet the following criteria:

- The project cost is \$500,000 or greater
- An acceptable project budget is provided
- The project sponsor supplies a 20% match commitment
- The project is directly related to the surface transportation system
- Designs for all facilities can conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Eligible Projects	Eligible Applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists • Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure projects to provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities • Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails • Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas • Community improvement activities including inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising and historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities • Construction, planning, and design of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local government • A regional transportation authority • A transit agency • A natural resource or public land agency • A school district, local education agency, or school • A Tribal government • A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or fewer • A nonprofit entity • Other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible (other than an MPO that serves an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000 or a State agency) • A State, at the request of an eligible entity listed above

PROJECT FUNDING

The maximum federal share for TAP projects is 80% for all phases (Planning, Design, ROW, and Construction), and therefore a minimum local funding commitment of 20% of project costs is required. Applicants should plan to fund the entire local share.

The federal funding allocation for the Hartford Transportation Management Area (TMA) is \$12,695,210, which results in \$15,869,013 of total project funding, inclusive of the required 20% non-federal match. Per an agreement among the Hartford TMA Councils of Government, and with the approval of the CRCOG Transportation Committee, 75% of this funding will be available for CRCOG projects (\$9,521,408 federal share / \$11,901,759 in total project funding). As a result of this solicitation, CRCOG plans to select between three and six new TAP projects for funding. An additional one to three non-CRCOG projects will be submitted alongside the CRCOG projects.

The minimum project size for TAP is \$500,000 (federal share of \$400,000). All projects that meet or exceed this threshold will be considered up to a maximum project size of \$4.0 million (federal share of \$3.2 million). Projects larger than \$4.0 million should demonstrate a local match significant enough to maintain a federal share of \$3.2 million. The final number of projects that will be advanced to CTDOT will be based upon project costs and available funding allocations.

NOTE: While this solicitation assumes the continuation of current funding levels and project eligibility, future legislation will dictate the number and type of projects that will be initiated under this program. Therefore, selection under this solicitation does not guarantee project eligibility or funding. Funds will be obligated as available in FFY 2026-2030.

SCHEDULE

March 28, 2024	Request for Proposals Released
May 13, 2024	Project Applications Submitted to CRCOG by 3:00pm
May 24, 2024	Short List Projects Selected by CRCOG Staff
June 10, 2024	Transportation Committee Special Meeting / Project Ranking
June 24, 2024	Transportation Committee Project Ranking Approval
June 26, 2024	Policy Board Project Ranking Approval

CRCOG'S EVALUATION, SELECTION, AND RANKING PROCESS

CRCOG will conduct the following evaluation to select the candidate projects that will be submitted to CTDOT:

1. Review of Proposals and Selection of Candidate Project Short List

CRCOG staff will review and rate all proposals. Staff will short-list the best projects that will be invited to participate in the second phase of the process that is described below. It is anticipated that five projects will be short-listed, but additional projects

may be included if needed to fully program CRCOG's funding allocation. The factors CRCOG staff will consider include:

- Eligibility of the project and how well the project fits the TAP guidelines
- Completeness of the application, including how well the project is described and the quality of the cost estimate
- Evidence of local commitment (match funding, public support, etc.)
- Benefits to high need areas, including elderly housing, public housing, ethnic communities, safe routes to school, transit dependent populations, or low-income neighborhoods
- Consistency with regional planning documents such as CRCOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Complete Streets Plan, etc.

CRCOG Staff will notify applicants of their selection status by May 24, 2024.

2. Transportation Committee Special Meeting

Representatives for the short-listed projects will be invited to a Transportation Committee Special Meeting to give a brief (10-15 minutes) presentation on their proposals. Following each presentation, Committee members will be allowed to ask questions. This meeting will be held virtually on June 10, 2024 at 10am.

Following the presentations, each Committee member will rank the projects from first to last. It will be suggested that the Committee consider the following when ranking the projects: budget completeness and accuracy; public benefit, especially to high need areas; safety; improvements to transportation network/connectivity; and feasibility and readiness to proceed.

3. Project Ranking

CRCOG staff will collect the ranking forms from the Special Transportation Committee meeting, and each project's average ranking will be calculated. The CRCOG projects with the best average rankings will be advanced as funding allocations allow. It is anticipated that at least three CRCOG projects will be selected. While this process identifies the CRCOG projects and their relative priority, other TMA agencies will conduct their own solicitation for the best non-CRCOG project(s), which must be included alongside the CRCOG projects in a single, prioritized list for the Hartford TMA.

CRCOG projects will receive 75% of the funding and non-CRCOG projects will receive the remaining 25%. The funds will be ranked/prioritized as follows: the first 50% of funds will be reserved for CRCOG projects, the next 25% for non-CRCOG project(s), and the final 25% for the remaining CRCOG project(s).

4. Transportation Committee Endorsement / Policy Board Approval

CRCOG's Transportation Committee and Policy Board will endorse a final prioritized list of TAP projects for the Hartford TMA at their meeting on June 24, 2024 and June 26, 2024, respectively. CRCOG will forward the approved projects to CTDOT as the Hartford TMA's prioritized recommendations for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program.