

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Transportation Alternatives Program – (TAP)

(Construction Projects Only)

FFY2018 Project Application

Section 1. Policy, Section 2. Project Requirements, Section 3. Project Selection Criteria/Scoring

Section 1. Policy

TAP Funding Background:

In 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designated the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO urbanized area as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). This TMA designation provides Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Attributable (STBGP-A) funds to the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) based on the 2010 Census Urbanized Area population of 295,083. Under current Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act legislation, Transportation Alternative (TA) Program funds can be utilized for all eligible transportation projects at the discretion of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission/Policy Committee (NWARPC). Availability of FFY 2018 and subsequent years funds are subject to Congressional action.

A goal of the 2040 NWA Regional Transportation Plan (2040 Plan) is to develop a more comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network for Benton and Washington counties and expand the Heritage Trail system. This regional trail and route system would link the emerging master trail plans of the region’s cities and include strategic spurs to connect employment centers, schools, retail shopping, recreational sites, parks, historic sites, and museums.

The 2040 Plan recommends maintaining a regional commitment to bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as encouraging cities to develop master trail plans in conjunction with the NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Guidelines:

The following guidelines will be used to select construction projects for funding that are consistent with the 2040 Plan and the NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan:

1.1 Project Selection and Scoring. All projects will be scored utilizing the same criteria. Project selection will be based on the overall number of projects submitted, availability of funding, and demonstrated need.

1.2 Minimum Project Size. The proposed project shall be a minimum of \$125,000.

TAP	\$100,000	80% Federal Share
Local Match	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	20% Local Match
Total Project	\$125,000	100%

1.3 **Maximum Amount Per Project Sponsor.** A goal is to allocate no more than 50% of the TAP funds to a project sponsor in one year. There is the understanding that funding should be equitably distributed within the Urbanized Area.

1.4 **Funding of Construction Ready Projects.** TAP funds will be awarded for the construction phase of a selected project. Preliminary Engineering and Final Design, Environmental, Right-of-way, and Utility Relocation is the responsibility of the applicant and must meet Federal-aid requirements.

1.5 **Northwest Arkansas Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Projects.** Project sponsors should focus on regional projects that will provide on-road and off-road trail facilities that connect to the existing and proposed trail networks as described in the 2040 Plan, NWA Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and NWA Heritage Trail Plan.

1.6 **Application and Deadline Requirement.** All project sponsors must submit an application for funding and meet the required deadline.

1.7 **Obligation of Funds.** All projects awarded must meet the obligation deadline of September 30, 2018. (Note: The project will need to be through the AHTD process and submitted to FHWA by the end of August to obligate funds.)

1.8 **Criteria for Project Selection.** Projects will be evaluated and scored based on the four categories listed below:

- 2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Connectivity
- Safety
- Barriers to mobility/usability

1.9 **TAP Project Application Timeline:**

Call for Projects _____	May 15, 2017
Project Application Deadline _____	June 30, 2017, at 4 p.m.
Project Sponsor Presentation to TAC Committee _____	July 20, 2017

1.10 **Federal-Aid Project Requirements.** Projects are required to be designed to AASHTO and Federal Standards/Guidelines.

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Project Sponsor Data:

Applicant: _____ Phone Number: _____

Contact: _____ E-mail: _____

Partners: _____

General Project Data:

Project Title: _____

Project Description: _____

Project Purpose: _____

Please attach a Project Site Plan, Vicinity Map, and Proposed Cross-Section

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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If information is needed in another language, contact Celia Scott-Silkwood. Si se necesita informacion en otro idioma, comuniqese Celia Scott-Silkwood, cscott-silkwood@nwarpc.org.

Section 2. Project Requirements

- 2.1 Required Match/Local Support.** Project sponsors must provide a minimum of 20% local funding match for all projects. (Note: This a reimbursable program through AHTD.)

	Requested Project Funding	Percentage
TAP Funds	\$_____	_____%
Local Match	\$_____	_____% (20% - No in-kind)
Project Cost	\$_____	_____%

Attach copy of required resolution authorizing the amount of proposed local match.

Resolution number: _____ Approval date: _____

- 2.2 Planning and Public Outreach.**

2.2.1 List a local or regional plan in which the project is included:

2.2.2 Describe any methods the project sponsor has used to involve or solicited public input on the proposed project

- 2.3 Public Access.** The project must be open for public access.

2.3.1. Is the property currently owned by the local Jurisdiction? Yes No

2.3.2 Is the project located on public right-of-way? Yes No

2.3.3 Is the project located in an easement that allows for public access? Yes No

- 2.4 Maintenance.** What governmental entity will be responsible for the short- and long-term project operation and maintenance?

2.5. Link to Surface Transportation. All projects must link to the surface transportation system. A project must have a strong link to surface transportation in order to compete for this funding. Describe how this project links to the surface transportation system.

2.6 Federal-Aid Project Requirements. Has the project been designed to Federal-aid Guidelines?

PE/Environmental	Yes	No
Engineering/Design	Yes	No
ROW	Yes	No
Utility Relocation	Yes	No

2.7 Project Location Map(s). Provide legible map(s) of the project location. The map(s) should be good enough to be easily-reproducible and should include the following:

- Project path. The map should clearly show where the project will be located.
- North arrow.
- Pertinent landmarks.
- If appropriate, a Legend identifying any other items on the map (i.e. existing paths or sidewalks, previous phases of the project, etc.)

2.8 Budget. Provide an itemized budget.

2.9 Safety. Describe how this project will improve the safety of the transportation system. Please cite any studies that show a reduction in crash rates and/or reduction in serious and fatal injuries based on the type of project proposed. Please describe how safety will be improved for all users of the facility: pedestrians and bicyclists.

Section 3. Project Selection/Scoring Criteria

Please answer the following questions. Scores and ranking of applications will be determined by the committee.

3.1 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Does the project provide a future or planned extension and/or connection to the regional trail system? (Maximum of 5 points)

3.1.1 Northwest Arkansas Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan(NWARBPMP) and/or Heritage Trail Plan.

Is the project shown in the NWARBPM Plan?	Yes	No
Is the project show in the Heritage Trail Plan?	Yes	No
Is the project a Catalyst project in the NWARBPM Plan?	Yes	No

3.1.2 **Local Master Trail Plan or Local Comprehensive Plan.** Is the project listed in a local Plan? (1 point) Yes No

Name: _____ Ordinance #: _____

Adoption Date: _____

3.2 Connectivity. Does the project provide a future or planned extension and/or connection to the regional trail system? Does the project connect to other transportation modes and/or transportation facilities?(Maximum of 10 points)

3.2.1 Connection to/from a neighborhood. Yes No
Name: _____ Distance: _____

3.2.2 Connection to/from employment retail center. Yes No
Name: _____ Distance _____

3.2.3 Connection to/from a school. Yes No
Name: _____ Distance _____

3.2.4 Connection to/from a community, regional, state, and/or national park. Yes No
Name: _____ Distance _____

3.2.5 Trailhead Construction and facilities Yes No
Name: _____

3.3 SAFETY. If applicable, does the project address an existing or potential safety problem (Maximum of 3 points)

3.4 Barriers to Mobility/Usability. Does the project address a barrier to mobility or usability? Does it address general ADA mobility? Does it address challenges to active transportation such as steep hills, stairs, sharp curves, intersections, etc.? Does the project enhance the user experience? (Maximum 2 points)

Federal TAP Guidance:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm>