Strategies for Transportation Alternatives Funding Implementation

March 16, 2022
Transportation Alternatives Data Exchange (TrADE)

- Learn about TA
- Read the Spending Report
- Explore state profiles
- Find project lists

railstotrails.org/spendingreport
Today’s Presenters

Torsha Bhattacharya, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Mike Smith
Transportation Alternatives Manager
Michigan DOT

Jenny Kramer
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Kansas DOT

Mary Ellen Koontz
Manager of Trail Funding Advocacy
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Technical Support

As people across the world continue to work and learn from home, platforms like Zoom are experiencing increased usage, which can result in technical difficulties.

Here's how to troubleshoot:

1. Log out and back into the webinar
2. Listen by phone: +1646-558-8656 & Webinar ID: 84078518116
3. Browse Zoom Customer Support topics & contact Customer Support: https://support.zoom.us
Transportation Alternatives 101

Top funding source for trails

BIL: TA +70% over 5 years
  ▪ Up to 5% can be used for technical assistance
  ▪ New limits on transfers

Opportunity to focus on connectivity & equity
Analysis of TA Funding

2021 and Beyond

Dr. Torsha Bhattacharya
FAST Act Funding Levels 2016-2021

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Apportioned</th>
<th>Obligated</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>$752</td>
<td>$669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>$741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$767</td>
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<td>$546</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$767</td>
<td>$459</td>
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</table>

2021 TA Funding

2021 TrADE Data (millions)

- **Apportioned**: $767
- **Programmed**: $828
- **Obligated**: $459
- **Reimbursed**: $547
- **Transfers**: $8
Analyzing Funded Project Categories

Categories of projects funded 2020

- 79.61% Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities
- 18.73% Recreational Trails
- 1.33% Historic Preservation
- 0.33% Environmental and Wildlife
- 0.00% Other

- Bike/Ped Facilities, Programs, & Safe Routes
- Rail-Trails
- Streetscaping / Pedestrian Beautification
- Landscaping / Beautification / Vegetation Management
- Historic Preservation & Rehabilitation
- Scenic Highways, Turnouts, & Overlooks
- Environmental Mitigation
- Safe Routes to School Infrastructure
- Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure
Questions?

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Kansas Transportation Alternatives Program

Jenny Kramer
Bike/Ped Coordinator and TA Manager

March 16, 2022
Call For Projects

Federal funds are available to assist communities with Active Transportation Projects.

Project concept forms are due to KDOT by March 4.

Informational webinars on the process are set for Feb. 4, 7 and 11.

To register, email Jenny Kramer at Jenny.Kramer@ks.gov.
TA Quality Improvement

• Change desired: increase % of projects that let within the FFY for which they are awarded

• Hold project team meetings at time of award and then every 3 months until PS&E submitted

• Teams include KDOT project manager, TA manager, TA sponsor (City, County, etc.), consultant
Kansas Active Transportation Plan

• Partnership Catalyst: Pathways, Sunflower Trails
  • Pathways to a Healthy Kansas - Multimodal Transportation and Trails Learning Collaborative
  • Sunflower Trails Champion Cohort Sessions
  • Extensive public outreach
• Toolkits-Planning, Bridge, Active Tourism
• Crash and Economic Impact Analyses
• Resources and funding guides
• KS AT Plan and Policy Registry COMING SOON!
Questions and Contact Information

Jenny Kramer
Bike/Ped Coordinator
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785-296-5186
Grant Coordinator Role

Reduces burden on local agencies:
- Provides education & guidance early during idea stage
- Single point of contact for applicant – cradle to grave
- Old way – apply to everything and see what sticks = maximum cost
- New way – target applications to the most likely funding source = minimum cost
- Wrap around programming and guidance

This role helps remove a barrier for distressed communities
Technical Review Process

MDOT technical experts assist local agencies at no cost:

- Identify potential constructability issues
- Generate ideas for solutions
- Continue working toward solutions across multiple review cycles

This process helps ensure all communities can succeed
Conditional Commitment

Formal written pledge from MDOT

Promise of future year construction funding:
• Provides applicant with confidence to proceed with acquisition and design, knowing construction funding will be there
• Applicant uses to leverage acquisition and design funding, as well as construction match funding
TAP Process Improvement Efforts

Opportunities to target diversity, equity, and inclusion improvements:

- TAP Scoring to increase competitiveness factors for
  - economically distressed communities
  - pedestrian safety target areas
- Mapping of all past TE, TAP, and SRTS projects to identify communities that have never received a grant
  - develop target areas for engagement
MDOT Active Transportation Plan: A Bold Vision

Sample goals in the plan that TAP can help address:

- Complete Streets
- Walking and bicycling should be safe and comfortable for everyone
- Walking and bicycling infrastructure should be accessible to all people, regardless of age, ability, background, and income
- First and last mile connections
- Interconnecting other modes
- Providing diverse options for active transportation to improve public health and connect communities

Bike Racks on Busses, Bike Lanes
Detroit

MM2045 Active Transportation Plan: A Bold Vision
Questions?
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