



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Phone:

January 9, 2019

TO: Mr. Matt Fulda, CT Metropolitan Council of Governments  
Mr. Lyle Wray, Capital Region Council of Governments  
Mr. James Butler, Southeastern CT Council of Governments  
Mr. Carl Amento, South Central Regional Council of Governments  
Mr. Samuel Gold, Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments  
Mr. Richard T. Dunne, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments  
Mr. Francis Pickering, Western CT Council of Governments

FROM: Maribeth Wojenski *Maribeth Wojenski*  
Transportation Assistant Planning Director  
Bureau of Policy and Planning

SUBJECT: **2019 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Solicitation**

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) will expire in 2020. To be prepared for subsequent legislation, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is soliciting for TAP project proposals that may be developed during the five-year period spanning FFY 2021 to FFY 2025. While the Department is soliciting for project proposals with the intent to advance the program over the five-year period, future legislation or continuing resolutions will ultimately dictate how many projects the Department can initiate. More specifically, the initiation of projects under this solicitation is predicated upon the funding levels provided by future legislation, which are presently unknown. The Department will continue communication with the Councils of Government (COGs) as FHWA provides information and guidance on the anticipated legislation.

At this point in time, Transportation Management Area (TMA) Metropolitan Planning Organizations' (MPO) member municipalities may submit applications through their TMA-MPO solicitation process for TAP funding. It is anticipated that current funding, eligible activities, and requirements under the FAST Act for the TA Set-Aside program will be carried over into future legislation. Applications may be submitted for the following types of projects: on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, multi-use trail projects, and safe routes to school projects.

For urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, each MPO should develop their own criteria to rank and select the TAP projects through a competitive process in consultation with the Department (23 U.S.C. 133(h)(4)). The Department will not be reviewing your criteria or selection process prior to your solicitation. The MPOs should solicit eligible entities as designated under 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(4)(B). In your solicitation of projects, please consider the many possible sources of project concepts, as well as financing. Please assist applicants in developing viable regionally significant projects, as these projects should be given priority for TAP funding over projects that are smaller in scale and eligible for other sources of state and federal funding.

Projects selected to go forward will be based upon funding availability and Department administrative staffing. **Attached is a spreadsheet summarizing the anticipated TAP set aside funds by urbanized area for FFY 2021-FFY 2025. To receive TAP funding a project must:**

- be submitted by an eligible entity with a complete application (see attached guidance)
- be deliverable\* in FFY21 - FFY25 (design complete/construction started)
- have a minimum cost of \$500,000.00 (projects are not to be combined to meet this minimum threshold)
- be given a priority ranking number

\* To expedite the consultant selection process and overall project delivery, it is encouraged but not mandatory that the project Sponsor advance the design phase without federal participation.

If a MPO has submitted a project for TAP funding in the past that has not yet been programmed and wants the project to be considered for TAP FFY 2021 – FFY 2025 funding, the project needs to be resubmitted with a new application and given a priority ranking. Please indicate Project #1 as the highest priority project to proceed with Projects #2 and #3 descending in priority. **Project applications need to be submitted with this priority ranking or they will be deemed incomplete and returned to the MPO.** In the case where urbanized areas with populations over 200,000 are represented by two or more MPO's, the MPOs and the local government entities representing the TMA's should meet and develop a consensus about how to apportion funds among projects within the TMA's. Attached is the TMA Project Priority form. **One form per TMA that lists the projects by priority should be submitted with the applications for that TMA.** A map of the TMA areas, a 2010 Adjusted Federal Aid Urban Boundaries Map, and a list of the Municipalities that fall within each TMA area is also attached. Municipalities that receive TAP funds within the adjusted Federal Aid Urban Boundaries and are listed under a TMA area that is part of a MPO with a population over 200,000 can apply through the MPO/TMA solicitation process.

Two hard copies and an electronic copy of the TMA priority form, and the TMA's applications should be submitted by June 26, 2019, directly to the Department Program Coordinator:

Ms. Sara Radacsi  
COG Coordination Unit  
Bureau of Policy and Planning  
Department of Transportation  
2800 Berlin Turnpike, P.O. Box 317546  
Newington, CT 06131-7546  
[sara.radacsi@ct.gov](mailto:sara.radacsi@ct.gov)

The number of applications submitted per TMA should correspond to the estimated amounts of funding shown in the TMA financial table and should not go over these amounts. All projects to be considered for TAP funding under this FY2021-2025 competitive process must be submitted to the Department by the specified timeframe. The Department will begin reviewing applications in the priority order submitted by each TMA. If the Department's review of the applications is completed before Federal legislative guidance is received, further guidance will be provided to the COGs at that time. The partnership between your agency and ours is important for successful implementation of projects under this program. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in this effort. If you have any questions regarding this solicitation, please contact Ms. Radacsi at (860) 594-2856.

#### Attachments

cc: Mr. Kurt Salmoiraghi, FHWA  
Mr. Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller, FHWA  
Mr. Erik Shortell, FHWA