

## **RTA Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funding Requirements**

### **Requirements and Eligible Activities**

1. Commitment of local sponsor by resolution to maintain the project for a minimum of 20 years.
2. If awarded, projects must be let **within two years** of October 1 of the original program year.
3. For construction projects, a minimum total project cost of \$100,000 (\$80,000 federal) with 20 percent match and minimum federal-aid participation level of 40 percent.
4. Eligible project sponsors include:
  - a. Cities
  - b. Counties
  - c. County Conservation Boards
  - d. School Districts (co-applicant only)
5. Eligible activities include the following:
  - a. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities and amenities, including safe routes to school infrastructure
  - b. Recreational trails program activities under 23 U.S.C. 206 of title 23
  - c. Planning studies related to either of the above activities
  - d. Safe routes to school non-infrastructure programs (i.e. pedestrian safety education, bicycle rodeos, safe routes to school coordinator)
6. Ineligible activities include the following:
  - a. Design engineering and construction related services
  - b. Sidewalk maintenance
7. Funding within the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) may be advanced to earlier years of the TIP (i.e. borrow ahead).
8. Applications must include a completed *Iowa's TAP Project Criteria Form* and *Iowa's TAP Application Form* along with all required attachments. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.
9. Projects submitted for consideration will be reviewed by MPO staff for program eligibility prior to the project ranking process.

## **Iowa's TAP Project Criteria**

Projects will be ranked and recommended for funding based on the following criteria:

- Project Readiness
  - Ability to meet federal requirements
  - Ability to meet programming timelines
  - Status of matching funds
  - Amount of matching funds
  - Public acceptance of project
  - Right-of-way constraints
- Relationship to Transportation System
  - Ability to minimize conflict points
  - Connectivity to existing facilities
  - Enhancement to existing transportation system
  - Relationship to complete streets
  - Inclusion in state, regional, and local plans
- Associated Benefits
  - Environmental and social impacts
  - Regional economic development impact
  - Regional tourism impact
  - Sustainability elements of project
- Other
  - Cost in relation to public benefit
  - Involvement of or benefit to multiple jurisdictions
  - Predicted usage relative to population

Project sponsors are required to identify which criteria their project relates to and provide a brief sentence describing the relationship within the *Iowa's TAP Project Criteria Form*.

## **Project Ranking Process**

Each project sponsor will be given a chance to present their project at the TAP Committee meeting. Projects will be ranked using a comparison process. All projects will be directly compared to each other, with a priority being chosen from each pair. Each time a project is chosen as the priority, it will receive a point. Once all projects are compared, points will be totaled, which will enable the creation of a ranked priority list for funding.

Projects will be ranked by entities present at the TAP Committee meeting. Entities shall vote on rankings as follows:

- Each county shall have up to two votes from different departments (engineering, conservation, economic development, etc.)
- Each city shall have one vote
- Silos & Smokestacks shall have one vote

INRCOG and the Iowa DOT will not vote, but will provide staff recommendations if requested.

Projects shall be recommended for funding based upon the rankings and funding constraints. The TAP Committee has the discretion to determine the share of federal funds for each recommended project. The draft Iowa's TAP will be recommended to the RTA Technical Committee for inclusion in the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

## Example Ranking (Four Projects)

Person 1

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Project A / **Project B**  
**Project B** / Project C  
**Project C** / Project D

Project A / **Project C**  
**Project B** / Project D

Project A / **Project D**

Ranking:

Project B – 3 votes  
Project C – 2 votes  
Project D – 1 vote  
Project A – 0 votes

Person 2

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**Project A** / Project B  
**Project B** / Project C  
**Project C** / Project D

**Project A** / Project C  
**Project B** / Project D

**Project A** / Project D

Ranking:

Project A – 3 votes  
Project B – 2 votes  
Project C – 1 vote  
Project D – 0 votes

Person 3

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Project A / **Project B**  
**Project B** / Project C  
Project C / **Project D**

Project A / **Project C**  
Project B / **Project D**

Project A / **Project D**

Ranking:

Project D – 3 votes  
Project B – 2 votes  
Project C – 1 vote  
Project A – 0 votes

Overall Ranking

**Project B – 7 votes**  
Project C – 4 votes  
Project D – 4 votes  
Project A – 3 votes