



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

July 31, 2020

Re: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program
Request for Applications

Dear Prospective Applicant:

On behalf of Governor Phil Murphy, I am pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2020 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside). This solicitation is administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), in partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO).

TA Set-Aside provides federal funds for community based "non-traditional" surface transportation related projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation's surface transportation intermodal system. The TA Set-Aside program was established by Congress in 2012 under MAP-21 and FAST Act in 2015, and is funded through a set-aside of the Federal-aid Highway Program. Eligible activities include most activities historically funded as "Transportation Enhancements".

For this solicitation, eligible projects must fall into one the following 7 categories:

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- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities both land and water such as buildings, structures and canals

- Community improvement activities, specifically: Streetscaping and corridor landscaping
- Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff
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Information about scheduling a one on one pre-submission meeting will be forthcoming on the website as well as dates for informational webinars about the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

You are invited to submit an application for a well-developed, construction-ready project that can qualify as a TA Set Aside project. The online TA Set-Aside handbook provides the necessary information for completing your application and also answers questions regarding eligibility and program requirements. This information can be found at:

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Sincerely,



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
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Enclosures

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Municipal Engineer
County Engineer
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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
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- Construction of scenic turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities both land and water such as buildings, structures and canals

- Community improvement activities, specifically: Streetscaping and corridor landscaping
- Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff
- Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats

In addition to the traditional grant criteria, for this solicitation, consideration will be given to applications that provide additional benefits to vulnerable members of our communities, including low-income residents, minorities, those with limited English proficiency, persons with disabilities, children and older adults. Census data for these categories will be used to determine if a project meets the equity criteria. Information regarding equity will be available through NJDOT's Local Aid Resource Center web site at:

<https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/equity>

Information about scheduling a one on one pre-submission meeting will be forthcoming on the website as well as dates for informational webinars about the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

You are invited to submit an application for a well-developed, construction-ready project that can qualify as a TA Set Aside project. The online TA Set-Aside handbook provides the necessary information for completing your application and also answers questions regarding eligibility and program requirements. This information can be found at:

<https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>

The eligible entities to receive TA Set-Aside funds are: local governments (municipalities and counties); regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; natural resource or public land agencies; tribal governments; any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a State agency).

Nonprofit organizations are not eligible as direct grant sub-recipients for TA Set-Aside funds unless they qualify through one of the eligible entity categories (e.g., where a nonprofit organization is a designated transit agency, school, or an entity responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs). Nonprofit entities are eligible to partner with any eligible entity on an eligible project, if State or local requirements permit. The NJDOT has final authority to make a determination on the eligibility of an applicant.

As with all federally funded programs, the funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. In addition, the award of TA Set Aside grants will be contingent upon the recipient's ability to comply with all applicable federal financial management, project implementation, and oversight regulations. Before applying, applicants should assess their capability to comply with state and federal

requirements for the administration of federal-aid highway grants set forth in Title 23 – Highways, and OMB requirements related to administrative rules (2 CFR Part 200) and cost principals (2 CFR Part 1201) requirements.

Please note that all public right-of-way and facilities are required to be accessible for all users regardless of funding source. Recipients of federal and state grants will be required to comply with the provisions of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The NJDOT offers a program, the TA Set-Aside Design Assistance Program, which is meant to provide consultant engineering services to assist Local Public Agencies (LPAs) with the development of plans, specifications, and estimates for their TA Set-Aside project at no cost to the LPA. Recipients of the 2020 TA Set-Aside grant solicitation will be eligible to participate in the program. The program was developed by NJDOT as part of the Federal Highway Administration’s Every Day Counts (EDC) initiative and is intended to shorten time, reduce costs, and improve quality in the delivery of TA Set-Aside projects.

Applications for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program are due on or before November 24, 2020 and must be submitted online through NJDOT SAGE at:

<https://njsage.intelligrants.com/>

I recommend that you consult your Local Aid District Office and your corresponding Metropolitan Planning Organization for assistance in preparing applications for this program. Contact information is included.

Thank you for your continued interest and support for this program, and best wishes for success with your project application.

Sincerely,



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Commissioner

Enclosures

c Municipal Clerk
Municipal Engineer
County Engineer
County Clerk