



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 600

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

FRANCIS K. O'CONNOR
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

December 9, 2024

Re: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Request for Applications

Dear Prospective Applicant:

On behalf of Governor Philip D. Murphy, I am pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) Program. 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).

The TA Set-Aside program 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. This has been maintained under the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

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

- Design and construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized transportation users
- Construction of scenic turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Community improvement activities, specifically: Streetscaping and corridor landscaping
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities both land and water such as buildings, structures and canals
- 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

Applicants may apply for Design, Right-of-Way (ROW) and construction funds. 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. Nonprofit organizations are not eligible as direct grant sub-recipients for TA Set-Aside funds for this solicitation. 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.

In addition to the traditional grant criteria, for this solicitation like the previous Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program, consideration will be given to applications that provide additional benefits to vulnerable members of our

“IMPROVING LIVES BY IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION”

New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer • Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

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>

Participation in one-on-one pre-application meetings will be required. Your local public agency should schedule this meeting as soon as possible through the NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center website: <https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/transportation-alternatives-set-aside-application-resources.php>

As with all federally funded programs, the funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. 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.

Public rights-of-way and facilities are required to be accessible for all users through the statutes 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.

Applications for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program are due on or before **May 22, 2025**. Applications must be submitted online through NJDOT SAGE at: <https://njsage.intelligrants.com/>

Information on the TA Set-Aside Program is available at:

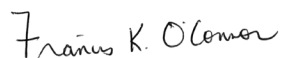
<https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>

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

The Division of Local Aid offers a TA Set-Aside Design Assistance Program, which provides consultant engineering services to assist Local Public Agencies (LPAs) with the development of plans, specifications, and estimates for their TA Set-Aside projects. Recipients of the 2025 TA Set-Aside grant solicitation will be eligible to participate in the program. Consultant costs for this program are paid by NJDOT and are not part of the grant amount if your LPA chooses to participate.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to improve safety for New Jersey's communities. Good luck with your application.

Sincerely,



Francis K. O'Connor
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Municipal/County Clerk
Municipal/County Engineer