

# **SCDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)**

**June 9, 2023**

# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

## What are *transportation alternatives*?

Think walking, biking....for transportation purposes.

## Examples of SCDOT's Eligible TAP Activities

- Sidewalks
  - New, close gaps in connectivity, lighting
- Bike Lanes
  - On-street widened outside lanes or roadway shoulders, pavement markings
- Bike / Ped crossing improvements
  - Pavement markings, median refuges, ped countdown signals, flashing beacons, lighting



# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

## Examples of SCDOT's Non-Eligible Activities

- Recreational Trails
  - Bicycle and pedestrian projects must be principally for *transportation*, rather than *recreation* purposes.
    - Purely recreational projects will be referred to the *Recreational Trails Program* managed by SC PRT.
- Routine maintenance and operations
- Property acquisition for vehicular parking lots



# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

## Examples of SCDOT's Eligible TAP Applicants

- Local governments
  - Cities, towns, counties
- Schools/school districts
- Eligible COGs / MPOs
  - Less than 200k population
- Eligible entities within a TMA's boundaries that were not funded by the TMA
  - Entities within a TMA boundary MUST FIRST apply via the TMA for TAP funds.



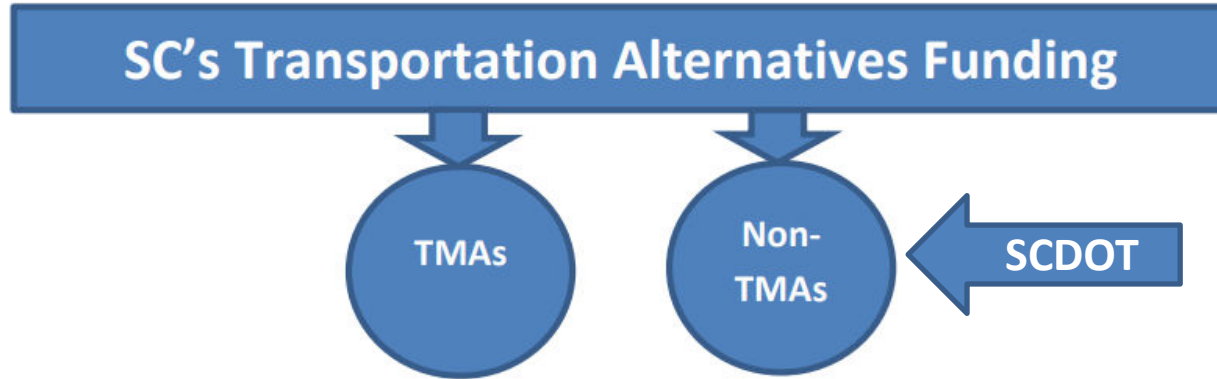
# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

- TAP is a federal **reimbursement** grant program
  - 80% Federal
  - 20% Local Match\*
    - Local Transportation Sales Tax, CTC, Property Taxes
    - No In-Kind Matches
    - Must have match in hand before project can start

\*Exemptions may apply.



# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)



Transportation Management Area (TMA)	TMA Description	Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
ARTS	Augusta Regional Transportation Study	Augusta Planning & Development Department
CHATS	Charleston Area Transportation Study	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
COATS	Columbia Area Transportation Study	Central Midlands Council of Governments
GPATS	Greenville – Pickens Transportation Study	Greenville County Planning Department
GSATS	Grand Strand Area Transportation Study	Waccamaw Regional Planning & Development Council
RFATS	Rock Hill – Fort Mill Area Transportation Study	Rock Hill - Fort Mill Transportation Study

# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

## SCDOT's Rural and Small Urban TA Program

Rural

Population less than 5,000

Small  
Urban

Population 5,000 – 49,999

Population 50,000 – 200,000

# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

<b>TENTATIVE FFY2023/24 Round Two TAP Schedule</b>	
Issue Call for Letters of Intent	September
Deadline for Letters of Intent	October
Internal Project Scope Review	November
TAP Applications Sent to Qualified Applicants	December
TAP Applications Due	January
Internal / External Application Reviews	February
TAP Award Recommendations / Approvals	March
Issue of TAP Award Letters	March
Executed Financial Participation Agreements	June

- **2 Funding Rounds per Fiscal Year**
- **Letters of Intent due in April and October**



# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

## FFY 2023/24 Round One TAP Funding Availability by Sub-allocation

Area	Population	2024 TA Allocation Estimates
Rural	Less than 5,000	\$10,000,000
Small Urban	5,000 to 49,999	\$1,400,000
Small Urban	50,000 to 200,000	\$5,900,000

# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

- IIJA requires **prioritization of project location and impact in high-need areas**

SCDOT addresses this by using SC Department of Revenue's County Tiers...

TIER IV	TIER III	TIER II	TIER I
Allendale Bamberg Barnwell Cherokee Chester Dillon Lee Marion Marlboro Orangeburg Union Williamsburg	Abbeville Chesterfield Clarendon Colleton Darlington Fairfield Greenwood Horry Jasper Laurens McCormick Sumter	Anderson Calhoun Dorchester Edgefield Florence Georgetown Hampton Lancaster Pickens Saluda Spartanburg	Aiken Beaufort Berkeley Charleston Greenville Kershaw Lexington Newberry Oconee Richland York

...and by awarding higher points to projects in Tiers III and IV counties, and potentially providing state match.

<b>Project Location and Impact in High-Need Areas</b>	The project is located in a Tier IV community. (12 points)  The project will provide economic and community benefits, including,	The project is located in a Tier III community (9 points).  The project will provide economic and community benefits, including,	The project is located in a Tier I or Tier II community. The project will provide economic and community benefits, including, but not limited to, access to	The project is located in a Tier I or Tier II community and does not provide beneficial community impacts. (0 points)
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# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

FACTOR	EXCELLENT 16 – 20 Points	ABOVE AVERAGE 11 – 15 Points	AVERAGE 6 – 10 Points	UNSATISFACTORY 0 – 5 Points
Safety	<p>The project is in the TIP, STIP, or is an SCDOT-documented safety issue. (20 points)</p> <p>The project clearly and specifically supports SCDOT's Complete Streets Policy, 10-Year Plan, <a href="#">Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan (PBSAP)</a> and/or is a Safe Routes to Schools infrastructure project.</p>	<p>The project is in the LRTP. (15 points)</p> <p>The project addresses a non-TIP, STIP, or SCDOT safety issue. However, the applicant is able to provide qualitative and quantitative documentation related to the project's safety-related benefits.</p>	<p>The project may potentially address a safety issue, but the project's primary purpose is not safety-related.</p> <p>Applicant did not provide quantifiable safety-related data.</p>	<p>The project does not demonstrate a safety benefit.</p> <p>The project may contribute to a safety hazard.</p>
Feasibility	<p>The project is in the TIP or STIP. (20 points)</p> <p>The applicant has clearly demonstrated that the project can be</p>	<p>The project is in the LRTP. (15 points)</p> <p>The applicant has somewhat demonstrated that the project can be</p>	<p>The applicant <i>may</i> be able to complete the project on time and within budget, but there is no definitive supporting</p>	<p>The applicant does not appear capable of completing the project on time and within budget.</p> <p>Match requirements (if</p>

- Scoring Matrix aligns funding with SCDOT's priorities.
- Safety is #1.
- The scoring matrix provides higher points to projects that are in SCDOT's 10-Year Plan and other planning documents.
- Other scoring factors include Planning and Connectivity; Previously Awarded TAP Projects; and Public Involvement

# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

- **Phased Awards to Prevent Lapse**
  - Ex: \$1M for design, ROW acquisition, construction
  - Phase I: \$200k for design and ROW; Phase II: \$800k construction
- **No award maximum** other than what's available for that funding round!
  - Previously, there was a \$400k max award cap
  - Project minimum = \$500k



# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

## SCDOT'S TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (officially known as the "Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside") is a Federal reimbursement grant program funded through the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The Transportation Alternatives Program allows local governments and other eligible entities to apply for grants for a variety of *non-motorized* transportation projects. The Transportation Alternatives Program was originally authorized under the 2012 Federal Transportation Funding Act, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and it replaced the early Transportation Enhancement grant program. The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) continues funding the TA set-aside through 2026.

### SCDOT's TAP Website

<https://www.scdot.org/projects/community-transportation-alternatives.aspx>

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### Tentative FFY 2023/24 Round One TAP Schedule

TAP Workshop	March 27, 2023
Issue Call for Letters of Intent (LOI)	March 28, 2023
Deadline for Letters of Intent	April 28, 2023 (by 4:00 pm)
Project Scope Review	May – June 2023
TAP Applications Sent to Qualified Applicants	June 2023
Applications Due	July 2023 (4:00pm, one month after applications are e-mailed to applicants)
Internal & External Application Reviews	July – September 2023
	[Issue call for second round of FFY 24 LOI's August 2023]
TAP Award Approvals	September 2023
Issue of Award Letters	September 2023
Executed Financial Participation Agreements	November 2023

Note: SCDOT's requests for TAP funding will be held annually in April and October. This is the first round (April) for federal fiscal year 2023 – 2024.

For additional information:

Download the [TAP Program Guidance](#) and see [Memo from SCDOT Secretary of Transportation](#)

March 27, 2023 TAP Workshop Recording



[March 27, 2023 TAP Workshop Presentation](#)

# **Contact Information**

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