FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WALKABLE COMMUNITIES IN VIRGINIA

Brittany Voll, ENV SP, Federal Programs Manager
VDOT Central Office – Local Assistance Division
Main Courses
(Federal Funding Programs)

SMART SCALE
Projects related to improvements to safety, congestion reduction, accessibility to jobs and businesses, land use, economic development and the environment. Includes High-Priority Projects and District Grant funding.

Transportation Alternatives (TA)
Smaller-scale, non-traditional transportation projects; includes on-road and off-road facilities/accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized forms of transportation, includes Safe Routes to School.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
Bike/Pedestrian Safety Program, Systems' roadway safety improvements; could include pedestrian improvements at intersections flushing yellow arrows, road diets, etc.

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
Urbanized areas - 200k population; apply through the Transportation Planning Organization for surface transportation projects; must be federally obligated w/in 12 months of allocation & expended w/in 36 months of obligation.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
Improvements to transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
Provides adequate access to qualifying establishments in the Appalachian Region to better link the region's businesses, communities and residents to the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) and to other key parts of the Region's transportation network.

State of Good Repair (SGR) Primary Extension
For pavement overlay, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of Primary Route Extensions maintained by municipalities with a combined condition index (CCI) of <40. Must be advertised for construction w/in 12 months of allocation.

State of Good Repair (SGR) Local Bridges
For structurally deficient bridges owned/mainstreamed by the locality.

Main Courses
(State Funding Programs)

Revenue Sharing
Provides additional funding for use by a county, city, or town to construct or improve the Highway systems; can include construction, reconstruction, improvement or maintenance projects.

Economic Development Access (EDA)
To provide adequate access, in consideration of the type and volume of traffic anticipated to be generated by the subject site to qualifying development sites; may require the construction of a new roadway, improvement of an existing roadway, or both.

Recreational Access Program
Construction/improvements to publically developed recreational areas or historic sites operated by a state agency, a locality, or a local authority. Requires coordination with DCR or DHR. Funding levels depend on owner/operations status.

Airport Access Program
To improve access to an existing public-use airport or to establish adequate access to a new public-use airport licensed by the Virginia Dept. of Aviation (DOAV).
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Overview

Intended to improve non-motorized transportation, enhance public’s travel experience, revitalize communities, and improve quality of life
TAP Overview

- Federal reimbursement program
  - 80% federal funds; 20% minimum required local match
    - Local match as cash or pre-approved third-party donation as requested in application
    - Can layer TAP with other funding; restrictions apply to local match eligibility

- Funds community-based projects that:
  - Expand non-motorized travel options
  - Enhance transportation experience
    - Improve cultural, historical, and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure

- Focuses on providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities and community improvements

- Does NOT fund traditional roadway projects or maintenance
Projects are typically administered by the project sponsor

- Staff must have completed the Qualifications Program
- Complete Request to Administer form with pre-application

Projects can be VDOT administered

- Work with the appropriate District if you plan to request VDOT administration
- In all cases, there are VDOT oversight expenses that should be accounted for in the application
  - Collaborate with your District prior to application
    - Site Visit
TAP Funding

- Project selections are made by Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) members
- Over 50% of available funding MUST be allocated by population:
  - <5,000
  - >5,000 to 50,000
  - >50,000 to <200,000
  - >200,000 (MPOs select)
- Remaining funds are available statewide
- Typical TAP allocation is less than $750,000
## Last Round Overview (FY23/24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Funding Awarded FY23/24 Round</th>
<th>Total Projects Awarded</th>
<th>Average FY23/24 Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>$4,500,974</td>
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<td>$900,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culpeper</td>
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<td>$823,007</td>
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<td>Fredericksburg</td>
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<td>$1,927,205</td>
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<td>Hampton Roads</td>
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<td>$749,669</td>
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<td><strong>STATEWIDE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$679,032</strong></td>
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</table>
Program Applicants

• **Eligible Applicants:**
  - Local governments
  - Regional transportation authorities (including PDCs)
  - Transit agencies
  - Natural resource or public lands agencies
  - School districts, local education agencies, and schools
  - Federally recognized Tribal governments
  - Other local or regional governmental entities with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails

• **Ineligible Applicants:**
  - State DOTs
  - MPOs
  - Non-Profits
Getting Started: Self Evaluation

• Evaluate the following local resources when considering seeking federal transportation funding:
  • Do you have experience in administering federal aid projects?
  • Do you have a current full-time employee who has passed VDOT’s Qualifications Program? Will you ask VDOT to administer?
  • Do you have a financial system in place to track and monitor project expenses?
  • Do you have staff available to meet the project timeframe?
    • The CTB has established a four-year rule for TA projects
Project Eligibility

- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Converting abandoned railroad corridors to trails
- Systems to improve safety for non-drivers
Project Eligibility, 2

- Turnouts and viewing areas at historic or scenic sites and meet logical termini requirements
- Restoration of historic transportation structures
- Safe Routes to School
Project Eligibility, 3

- Outdoor advertising control and removal
- Vegetation management
- Archaeological activities
- Environmental mitigation
  - Erosion and pollution control
  - Wildlife mortality and habitat connectivity
Preparing to Apply

• Identify an eligible project need
  • Work with your local VDOT District if you need assistance
• Perform some preliminary engineering and/or evaluation for constructability and cost
  • Conduct a site visit
• Finalize the planned scope:
  • Logical termini and independent utility
  • Project must reach construction within four years
SMART Portal

- All applications are accepted through SMART Portal
  - Establish access and Organizational Administrator
- Pre-applications open May 15; due June 30
  - Pre-applications are validated/screen-in decisions made
  - Eligible pre-applications reopen on August 15
  - Full applications are due by October 2
- Pre-application information
  - Project title and description; eligibility category
  - Project termini
  - Cost estimate; tentative federal funding request, including match
  - What conceptual/pre-design work has been completed?
More Information = Stronger Application

Example Purpose:
The planned improvements will make it safer for children walking to school and attending after school sporting events.

Stronger Purpose:
The planned improvements will install sidewalks where none previously existed and add crosswalks and accessible curb ramps, thereby improving the safety of students and other pedestrians entering Running Creek Elementary school. Most children don’t walk to school due to the high traffic volumes and lack of sidewalks. Those who do must walk in the street and hope that cars slow down at the intersections since there are no markings to indicate a pedestrian or school crossing. The school is located in a residential area with high numbers of school-age children; the school also has a very active after school program including sports and other student activities.
Ready, Set, Go!

- Project development grant program
- Consultant team supports smaller communities in developing potential TA project ideas
  - Tabletop exercise – two-page content deliverable with checklist
  - Map
  - Schedule
  - Estimate
- Available to communities with populations of <50,000
TAP Resources

Virginia’s TAP page
http://www.virginiadot.org/business/prenhancegrants.asp

VDOT Smart Portal site
http://smartscale.org

Transportation Alternatives Data Exchange site
https://www.railstotrails.org/policy/trade/

Safe Routes to Schools page
http://www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes
FY25/26 Pre-Application Training

April 5, 10 a.m. until noon
Virtual training via WebEx

Register at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZBMB5P
For all existing TAP projects and potential TAP applications, VDOT District Staff are the first point of contact.

If you do not know your District contact, refer to the contact list on VDOT’s TAP page: https://www.virginiadot.org/business/prenhancegrants.asp

For all Safe Routes to School (non-infrastructure) projects:
- Kathy Graham, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
  - Katherine.Graham@VDOT.Virginia.gov
VDOT Central Office Contacts

- Brittany Voll, Federal Programs Manager
  - Brittany.Voll@VDOT.Virginia.gov
  - Richmond

- Jay Lindsey, Special Fund Consultant, FLAP Manager
  - Jay.Lindsey@VDOT.Virginia.gov
  - Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, and Northern Virginia

- Synthia Waymack, Special Fund Consultant, Byway Manager
  - Synthia.Waymack@VDOT.Virginia.gov
  - Bristol, Hampton Roads, Salem, and Staunton
VDOT Local Contacts: Culpeper Residencies

- Warrenton: Culpeper, Fauquier, Rappahannock
  - 540-347-6441
- Louisa: Louisa, Fluvanna, Orange
  - 540-967-3710
- Charlottesville: Albemarle, Greene, Madison
  - 434-293-0011

https://www.virgiiniadot.org/about_vdot/residencies.asp