2027 Call for Projects
Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Guidelines
Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program funds safe, connected infrastructure for non-motorized users. Funding for projects included in the List of Priority Projects is typically available as noted below.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS

- Local Governments
- Regional Transportation Authorities and Transit Agencies
- Natural Resource or Public Land Agencies
- School District, local education agencies, or schools
- Other local or regional governmental entity with oversight responsibility of transportation or recreational trails, the State determines eligible and consistent with the goals of 23 U.S.C. 213(c).

HOW TO APPLY

1. Attend the MPO Funding Programs Workshop on November 3, 2026 (optional)

Learn about project eligibility, Local Agency Program (LAP) Certification, and have your specific questions answered by FDOT and MPO staff.

2. Attend Pre-Application Meeting with MPO and FDOT Staff (required)

All applicants must attend a pre-application meeting with MPO and FDOT between November 4, 2026 and February 19, 2027. MPO staff will schedule these meetings with FDOT and applicants.

3. Host a Public Workshop / Meeting on the Proposed Improvements.

A standing meeting (e.g., Council or Planning Board) does not sufficiently address this requirement. The meeting must be publicly advertised and open to all to attend.

4. Gather the Required Documents

Each project submittal requires an application form and supporting documents outlined in the Submittal Checklist in this packet. Missing or late documents may result in project ineligibility.

5. Submit Online via FDOT GAP Application Portal Application Deadline: March 1, 2027, at 11:59 PM

- The application process requires the submittal of the application document with associated attachments via the FDOT GAP Application Portal. Florida Gap - Log In (blackcatgrants.com)
- Users must create an account.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & LIMITATIONS

- An applicant may submit a maximum of two (2) applications, except for Palm Beach County who may submit a maximum of six (6) applications across all departments. Only one project will be placed on the LOPP per municipality or county department.
- All applicants will be required to meet with MPO and FDOT staff to discuss projects for the LOPP. Applicants must only submit applications discussed in the meeting. Projects must be disclosed in sufficient detail in the pre-application meeting for funding consideration.
- Projects will be ranked and prioritized in the MPO's draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP). Applicants submitting multiple projects are permitted to provide a preferred rank of their own projects. However, the Governing Board must still approve final prioritization.
- Projects will be prioritized until funding is exhausted. If a project is not prioritized or funding is not available in the work program, the project will not be included in the LOPP and must be resubmitted the following application cycle to be considered for funding.
- Applications must be submitted online via the FDOT Grants Application Process (GAP) application portal pursuant to the program schedule.
- Applications should also be submitted via email to the MPO TA Program Coordinator.
- All applicants must respond and submit any project adjustments or edits to scope following FDOT and MPO review. Applicants are to submit the updated application and/or requested documents via email to both FDOT and MPO staff these updates are meant to address questions on any project-related concerns to mitigate possible design and construction issues prior to inclusion in the LOPP.
- Applications must include all required documents listed in the Submittal Checklist.
- Participation in the TA program requires periodic, as-needed project progress meetings with FDOT and the MPO. Failure to participate in these mandatory meetings may result in the de-prioritization of funding or ineligibility to apply in the future.
- The awarded agency must ensure "After" construction photos are shared with the MPO. These photos of project completion should be at the same location where pre-construction photos were taken. Photos must be high quality (at least 1200x800) and should not be packaged within a PDF or word document. **Google Street View is NOT an appropriate substitute for before or after pictures.**
- Applications will be ranked by a system derived from Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- All submitted projects must meet compliance requirements as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and must conform with all federal, state, and local standards such as, but not limited to: Florida's Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways (Florida Greenbook), Florida Design Manual (FDM), FDOT Traffic Engineering Manual (TEM), National Association of City Transportation Officials (for non-NHS projects by eligible entities only) etc. Any projects scoped with experimental design considerations must provide documentation of proof of interim approval of such activities at application submittal. Failure to provide proof will result in project ineligibility.
- Any project that fronts single-family residential lots that provide primary access to the impacted roadway must provide proof of public outreach and support. Applicants must provide proof of notification to all directly affected properties and documentation supporting at least 25% of the project. Projects that do not meet this requirement will be flagged for review by the MPO Governing Board.
- Applicants should expect and budget for reasonable costs of the project not reimbursable by the TA Grant, such as inflation. These costs can vary and should be well understood before applying to the program. The applicant is responsible for covering all unanticipated, unaccounted-for, or otherwise unidentified costs not identified in the initial application, as well as for inflation or price escalation. Applicants are required to cover these increases with local funds.
- Natural Infrastructure may consist of up to 25% of the participating costs.
- For projects included in the Transportation Improvement Program, applicants will be required to include the project with the source of design and/or permitting funding in a capital improvement program or budget no later than the following fiscal year.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE

The following list details the eligibility for activities under the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program.

Construction of on-and off-road facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and other forms of non-motorized transportation (pedestrian and bicycle facilities)

Eligible Activities

- Pedestrian infrastructure such as new sidewalks, crosswalks, signals, bridges, underpasses, etc.
- Bicycle infrastructure such as bicycle lanes, parking, signals, bridges, underpasses, etc.
- Transit supportive infrastructure such as bike on-board racks, kiosks, seating, etc.
- New or reconstructed off-road trails that serve a transportation need, such as trails that provide access to schools, parks, or other public places; and associated amenities that serve trail users, such as trailheads, restrooms, benches, trash cans, watering stations, pet amenities, bicycle repair stations, wayfinding signs, security cameras, parking, trail access, etc.
- Lighting and other safety-related infrastructure related to multimodal transportation

Non-Eligible Activities

- Routine maintenance or replacement of existing sidewalks (unless ADA upgrades are needed)
- Circular trails/sidewalks
- Facilities located within a property that do not connect to other trails/sidewalks
- General resurfacing of roadways
- General recreation and park facilities: playgrounds, sports fields, campgrounds, picnic areas, etc.

Construction of infrastructure-related projects/systems to provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities (safe routes for non-drivers)

Eligible Activities

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 compliance projects, such as rehabilitation of existing sidewalks, curb ramps, sidewalk widening, etc.
- Traffic calming techniques
- Lighting and other safety-related infrastructure
- Traffic realignments, road diets, or intersection changes that improve multimodal access or safety
- Crosswalks and/or pedestrian refuge areas

Non-Eligible Activities

- Roadway lighting that doesn't benefit non-drivers
- Promotional materials (except for Safe Routes to School)
- Intersection realignments aimed at improving vehicular flow
- Projects that reorganize pick-up and drop-off primarily for the convenience of drivers
- Education programs that are primarily focused on bus safety
- Bus Stop Improvements (school, public transport, etc.)

Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized use

Eligible Activities: Developing rails-to-trails or rail-with-trails facilities; trailheads and associated amenities; Purchasing and constructing or reconstructing unused railroad property for reuse as a trail

Non-Eligible Activities: Trails for motorized vehicles or maintenance of an existing trail

Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas

Eligible Activities: Turnouts and viewing areas at scenic or historic sites; Right-of-way acquisition

Non-Eligible Activities: Visitor centers (capital); Operation or maintenance; Marketing/promotional items

Inventory, control or removal of outdoor advertising

Eligible Activities: Data collection and ad removal.
Non-Eligible Activities: Administration and operating expenses.

Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities

Eligible Activities: Facilities on or eligible for the historic register; Historic railroad, toll, and ferry facilities; Rehabilitation of historic surface transportation facilities such as bridges, lighthouses, canals, etc.

Non-Eligible Activities: Operating costs; facilities not open to the public; construction of replica facilities; infrastructure not related to surface transportation (air and space); and structures.

Natural infrastructure and vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way

Eligible Activities: Protective features, including natural infrastructure, to enhance the resilience of a transportation facility otherwise eligible for assistance under this section.

Non-Eligible Activities: Standalone landscaping; planting of annuals

Archaeological activities related to impacts from transportation projects

Eligible Activities: Archaeological excavation and surveys related to a transportation project required as part of a TA project; Interpretation and display of artifacts discovered as part of a transportation project.

Non-Eligible Activities: Archaeological activities not related to transportation eligibility under Title 23 USC.

Environmental mitigation activities

Eligible Activities

- Pollution prevention, abatement, and mitigation activities to address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities listed in Sections 133(b), 328(a), and 329.
- Infrastructure to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality
- Restoration and maintenance of the connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats, such as surmountable curbs for turtles
- Natural infrastructure and minimizing impervious surfaces

Non-Eligible Activities

- Drainage improvements related to poor maintenance and/or upgrades to inadequate systems.
- Storm water management activities not related to highway run-off and water pollution

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

SRTS projects are eligible under TA Set-Aside through FDOT. For more information on eligible activities, visit: https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/programs/safe-routes.shtm

SCHEDULE	
October 22, 2026	**Program Kick-off.** MPO Board approves program.
November 3, 2026	**Program Application Workshop.** Workshop to review program application, scoring criteria, schedule, and project implementation requirements. MPO distributes program overview and application information to local agencies.
November 4, 2026 – February 24, 2027	**Pre-Application Meetings.** Required one-on-one meetings with MPO and FDOT representatives to discuss project specifics and clarify application requirements.
March 1 2027	**Application Deadline.** All materials submitted via the online application portal by 11:59 p.m.
March 5, 2027	**MPO Submits Draft Project List and Tentative Ranking to FDOT.** MPO submits tentative project rankings to FDOT for project feasibility and eligibility determination.
FDOT/MPO VETTING PROCESS BEGINS	
Late March 2027	**First Email to Applicants.** After initial application review, FDOT emails applicants requesting additional clarification needed before field reviews. If ineligible, MPO to send a formal response.
Early April 2027	**Applicant Responses Due.** Applicants provide FDOT and MPO responses to requested clarifications.
Mid April 2027	**Field Visits.** FDOT and applicants perform field reviews to ensure the potential project is constructible, requires no right-of-way acquisition, and determine if drainage is warranted.
Late April 2027	**Second Email to Applicants.** FDOT sends an email to applicants with comments on issues/concerns, clarifications, updated cost estimates, and/or requests for missing or updated documentation.
April 23, 2027	**Resolution of Support Due to MPO.** Applicants must submit a resolution from their governing body and/or the governing body of the facility owner endorsing the project and committing to funding of operations and maintenance.
May 3, 2027	**Response from Applicants Due.** Deadline for applicants to resolve outstanding eligibility issues and submit final requested documentation to FDOT and MPO.
FDOT/MPO VETTING PROCESS ENDS	
May 28, 2027	**FDOT D4 returns Eligibility Determinations.** FDOT sends MPO final eligibility determinations to finalize draft priority ranking.
July 7 - 8, 2027	**Draft LOPP to Committees.** MPO staff presents a draft List of Prioritized Projects to MPO committees for review and input before the MPO Board considers it.
July 15, 2027	**Final List of Priority Projects Approval by MPO Board.**
July 16, 2027	**Submit Project Priorities to FDOT.** MPO submits the adopted LOPP to FDOT and notifies applicants of final priority rankings.

* Program schedule subject to change.

2027 MPO TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) PROGRAM SCORING			
Criteria	**Value**	**VALUE**	**MAX**
What			
Bicycle Facility Type NOTE: Multiply total mileage by factor shown in Value column	10'+ shared use path	5	15
	Separated or raised bicycle lanes	4	
	Buffered bicycle lanes	3	
	Designated bicycle lanes	2	
Pedestrian Facility Type NOTE: Multiply total mileage by factor shown in Value column	10'+ shared use path	5	15
	8'-9' paved path	4	
	5'-7' sidewalk	3	
	5'+ unpaved path	2	
	Sidewalk or shared use path widenings	1	
	Standalone ADA facility	0.2	
Project reduces conflict points and/or implements proven safety countermeasures that improve safety for all roadway users. NOTE: Each intersection is considered one scoring area, multiple locations may be added for a total value up to maximum.	Grade separation, roundabout, protected intersection	10	15
	Raised crosswalk or intersection; or median or refuge island enhanced intersection or crosswalk	7	
	Crosswalk visibility, marking, and traffic calming, including bulb outs, curb radii, new crosswalk or crosswalk enhancement, traffic circle, or other countermeasures	5	
Where			
Project improves pedestrian and or bicycle facilities in High Crash Pedestrian or Bicycle Corridor per MPO Vision Zero Action Plan		5	15
Project is identified in an agency's adopted plan and connects to an existing or proposed non-motorized facility		5	
Project provides lighting in Dark/Unlit location		5	
Project closes pedestrian priority gap	Tier 1 Gap	5	5
	Tier 2 Gap	3	
	Tier 3 Gap	1	
Project improves bicycle priority network	Tier 1 Network	5	5
	Tier 2 Network	3	
	Tier 3 Network	1	
Project benefits traditionally underserved communities NOTE: Determine Traditionally Underserved population index within 1 mile of project	Very High	10	10
	High	6	
	Medium	3	
	Low	0	
Project creates new Pedestrian Facilities within 1 mile of a school, park, or transit hub		10	10
Project creates new Bicycle Facilities within 2 miles of a school, park, or transit hub		10	10
Deduction			
Applicant canceled a previously prioritized and funded project within the past 12 months		-5	0
		Total	100

Submittal Checklist

Please use the following checklist to ensure all documents required are submitted to the GAP System:

☐ FDOT Application

☐ Attendance and description of project at pre-application meeting.

☐ Location Map (Aerial)

☐ Clear Photographs of project before construction (Google Map photos are not acceptable)

☐ Conceptual Typical Section or Planview Sections (Existing and Proposed)

☐ Detailed Cost Estimate Spreadsheet (Signed by Professional Engineer)

☐ Right-of-Way Ownership Verification (Plats, deeds, prescriptions, surveys and/or easements)

☐ Commitment Letter from administering agency's director of Engineering or Public Works Department committing to "administer and construct the project if funded by the Palm Beach Transportation MPO's TA Program" is required (**March 1, 2027**).

☐ Proof of a public workshop focused on the proposed improvements.

☐ Proof of public outreach and public support required if proposed project modifies a roadway that provides access to single family residential lots. **NOTE***: Attendance at a council meeting for the resolution of support is not considered a public outreach meeting.*

- Must have >25% of all adjacent landowners to the project in support who abut the project
- The following documentation must be submitted with the application in the form of:
    - Responses to mail outs sent to landowners/residents; Or,
    - Sign-In signatures and input obtained at a neighborhood/public meeting.

☐ Resolution of Support from governing body of the facility owner(s) clearly indicating that the project may be constructed as proposed and a commitment to fund ongoing operations and maintenance of the project - due within 60 days of application due date.