

# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

## Project Background

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program provides federal funds for a variety of smaller-scale, non-traditional, community-based transportation projects that improve safety, expand travel choices, and enhance the transportation experience. These projects are intended to integrate travel modes and improve the cultural, historic, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

## Eligible Project Types

Eligible project types include the following, at any stage of project development, including planning, design, and construction:

- Bicycle, pedestrian, and nonmotorized transportation facilities
- Traffic calming, lighting, and safety-related infrastructure
- Projects to achieve ADA compliance
- Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Recreational trails
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS), including infrastructure, non-infrastructure, and coordinator positions\*
- Vulnerable road user safety assessments
- Environmental mitigation related to stormwater, water pollution prevention, wildlife crossings, and habitat connectivity
- Rails to trails
- Community improvement activities:
  - Removal of outdoor advertising
  - Vegetation management
  - Historic preservation related to historic transportation facilities
- Micromobility projects, including bike and scooter share

\* SRTS Programs apply to students K-12<sup>th</sup> grade

## Technical Support for Applicants

NDOT will conduct pre-meetings with local agencies to help them understand the process and requirements before applying.

## Eligible Applicants

- Local governments
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- School districts/schools
- Tribal governments
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations serving a population under 200,000
- Nonprofit organizations
- Other local or regional governmental entities with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails
- States, at the request of an eligible entity

## Project Sponsor Expectations

- Federal funds contribute up to 95% of the total eligible project cost. Sponsors must ensure other sources of non-federal transportation funding can cover the minimum 5% local match
- Project budget must include 20% contingency for infrastructure projects
- Applicant is required to cover cost overages
- TA is a federal cost reimbursement grant program – no funding is provided upfront
- Regular project reporting to NDOT is required

## Application Process

Per federal guidelines, NDOT utilizes a competitive application process to select projects for the TA Set-Aside Program. NDOT will be hosting an informational webinar and offering pre-application meetings for potential applicants.

## Getting Started

As a potential project sponsor, first establish that your project is eligible and determine its qualifying category:

- **Infrastructure** (Engineering, environmental analysis, and/or construction)
- **Non-Infrastructure** (SRTS programs)
- **Planning** (Scope, schedule, budget development)

Program information and online application are available at: <https://www.dot.nv.gov/projects-programs/transportation-alternatives-program>

## One Nevada Goals

NDOT developed the One Nevada Transportation Plan, the state's Long-Range Transportation Plan, that establishes goals for transparent decision-making. The six One Nevada goals will be integrated into TA application screening to better align the prioritization process with both federal and state priorities.



## Scoring Criteria

### Infrastructure-Related Improvements

### Non-Infrastructure-Related Improvements

<b>Enhance Safety</b>	Project identified in a safety plan Project is located in a high crash area Project incorporates proven safety countermeasures	Project provides safety education
<b>Preserve Infrastructure</b>	Project improves functionality of an existing transportation facility	NA
<b>Optimize Mobility</b>	Project improves conditions for walking, bicycling, or accessing transit	Project improves knowledge about alternative modes of transportation
<b>Transform Economies</b>	Project supports local land use goals	NA
<b>Foster Sustainability</b>	Project improves alternatives to driving	Project improves alternatives to driving for students
<b>Connect Communities</b>	Project improves connections between communities or to community facilities	Improves knowledge and skills needed for students to safely walk and bike to school
<b>Equity</b>	Project benefits a low-income or underserved community	Project benefits a low-income or underserved community

Each of the included criteria is worth 1 point, with three potential points available for safety infrastructure.

## Alignment with State and Federal Goals

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) encourages states to prioritize **safety, equity, and climate sustainability** in their project selection process.

Scoring criteria developed as part of this program align with federal priorities and NDOT's One Nevada prioritization process.