

# Maryland Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program

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# Federal Funding Legislation

- The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program was authorized by the most recent Federal Transportation Funding Act:
  - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)
    - Signed into law on July 6, 2012



# MAP-21:Transportation Alternative



## SAFETEA-LU

Transportation Enhancements

Safe Routes to School

Recreational Trails

## MAP-21

Transportation Alternatives

Transportation Alternatives

Recreational Trails

Safe Routes to School

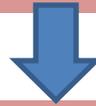
# Funding Allocation



- Each state receives a portion of federal TA Program funds designated for the Fiscal Year
  - A portion of each state’s funding is allocated for the Recreational Trails Program
  - Remaining balance is allocated for TA projects:
    - 50% is sub-allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations based on population their relative share of the total State population
    - 50% may be obligated to any area of the state

# TA- 2015 Funding Suballocation

Total TA Funding  
Approx. \$19 M



Recreational Trails  
approx. \$1 M



Metropolitan Washington Council of  
Governments  
=\$2,093,624



State Flex  
= \$9,052,203

Baltimore Regional Transportation  
Board = \$3,064,679

Population 5k and under  
= \$1,950,765

Wilmington Area Planning Council  
= \$30,825

Population 5k – 200k  
= \$1,977,193

# Purpose of the Transportation Alternatives Program

- TA projects are federally-funded community-based projects that:
  - Expand travel options
  - Improve the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure
  - Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
  - Reduce traffic congestion
  - Reduce emissions
  - Improve children's health



# TA Eligible Activities

- Construction and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.
- Construction and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers. Also, projects in the vicinity of schools that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising.
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.
- Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
- Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under this title.
- Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to:
  - Address stormwater management, control 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

# Program Eligibility

- Be sponsored or co-sponsored by an eligible agency or authority
- Be related to the surface transportation system
- Meet one or more of nine eligible categories listed in the federal legislation
- Provide 20% match
  - Applications will be considered more qualified with a higher percentage of matching funds during selection
- Design funding is eligible
  - Requires project funding for Construction
  - 30% design plans required with application submittal for construction projects

# Project Sponsors

- Local government
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- School district, local education agencies or schools
- Tribal governments
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails

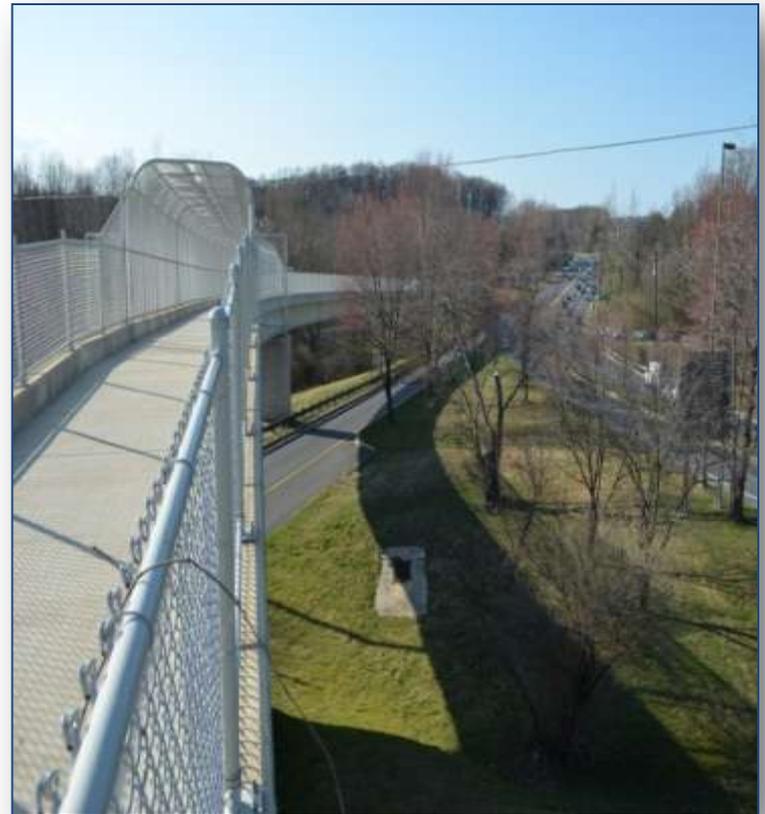


Photo Credit: NTEC

# Project Responsibilities



- Sponsor:
  - Design, project management, and construction
  - Maintenance activities for the lifespan of the project
- SHA:
  - Provides assistance with the TAP process requirements – invoicing, environmental permitting, reimbursement, etc.
  - Provides approvals during design, right-of-way and construction phases



# Project Example: Three Notch Trail (26 Miles)



- **Phase I and II – MD 236 to Deborah Dr. in Charles Co. (3.25 miles) – 2006 & 2008**
  - Recreational Trails Program (RTP) - \$200,000
  - MDOT - \$50,000
  - Program Open Space (POS) - \$425,000
  - County Funding - \$680,739; Donation - \$200
- **Phase III – California area; being constructed by private developers (2 miles)**
- **Phase IVA - Lexington Park area (.5 miles; 2012); IVB future phase to be constructed with FDR Blvd (2 miles)**
  - Program Open Space (POS) - \$145,473
  - County Funding - \$52,031
- **Phase V - John V. Baggett Park at Laurel Grove to MD 5 in Mechanicsville (2.67 miles; 2012)**
  - TEP - \$513,707
  - RTP - \$60,000
  - POS – \$276,408
  - County Funding - \$254,686
  - So MD Heritage Area Consortium - \$1,000
- **Phase VI: MD 5 to MD 236 New Market; (5 miles; awarded \$)**
  - TEP - \$1,788,600
  - RTP - \$120,000
  - MD Bikeways - \$470,180
  - POS - \$185,000; MHAA \$136,877
  - County Funding - \$934,561
  - **Currently Under Construction**
- **Phase VII: In planning stages; anticipate applications for future funding (4 miles)**
- **Phase VIII & IX – Future phases (approx. 7 miles)**



# SRTS Goals

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age
- Facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

# Why is SRTS Important?

- Fewer kids are biking and walking



1969

48% walked or biked

12% driven

*(U.S. DOT, 2009)*

2009

13% walked or biked

44% driven

# SRTS Eligible Activities

- Engineering (0-100% design)
  - Sidewalks
  - On-Street bicycling
  - Pathways
  - Connectivity
- Education
  - Pedestrian and bicyclist safety
  - Personal security
  - Health Benefits/Environment
- Encouragement
  - Walking school buses
  - Individual competition/Contests/Events
- Enforcement
  - Training Crossing Guards/Parents/Community
  - Law Enforcement
- Evaluation



# SRTS Specific Requirements

- Projects must:
  - Provide 20% cash match
  - Benefit Elementary or Middle School students
  - Benefit students who walk or bike to school
  - Include school participation
  - Be within a two mile radius of the school
  - Complete participation surveys and reports



NOTE: 30% design is *not* required for SRTS projects

# Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

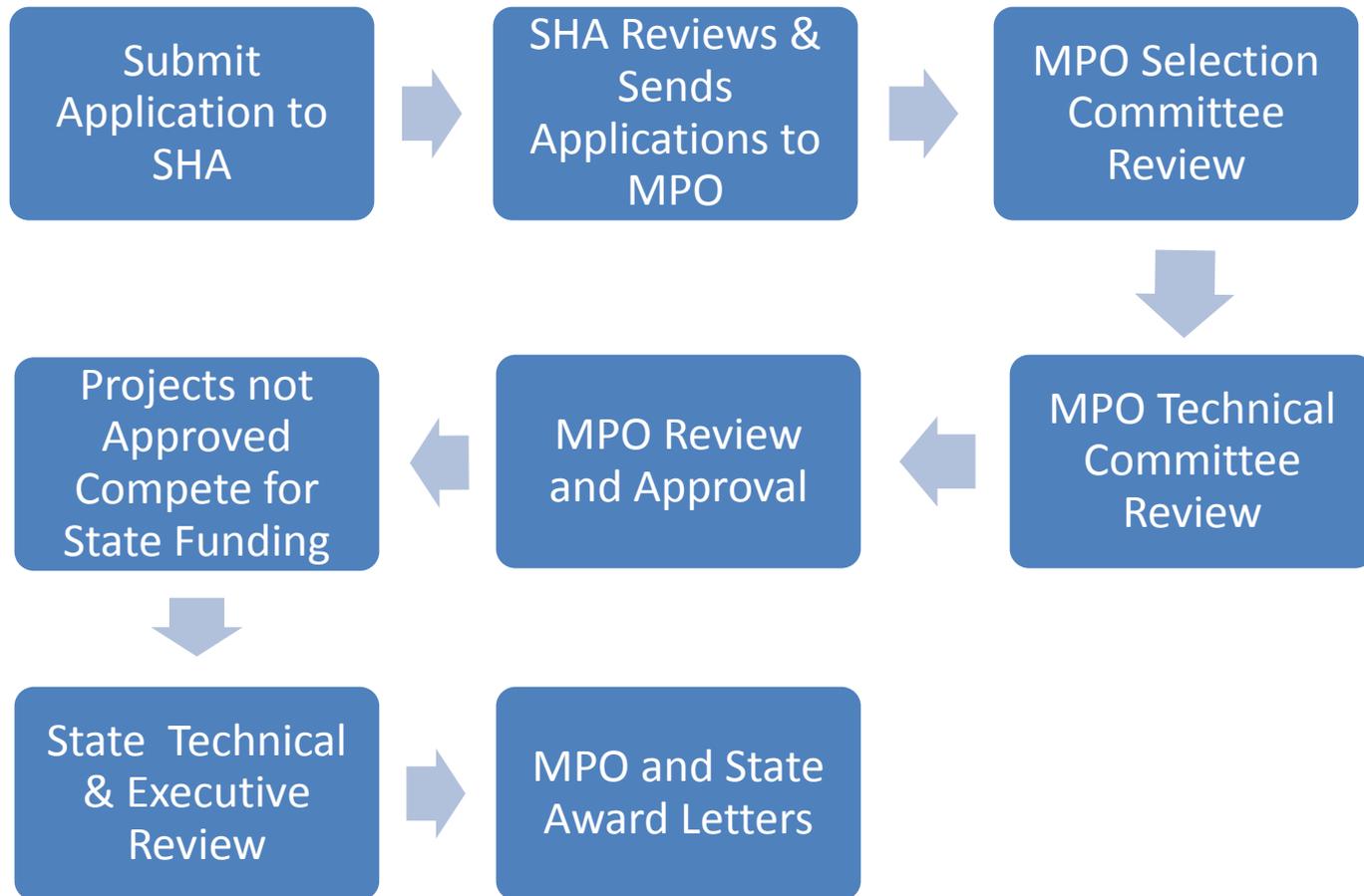
- ADA Compliance:
  - Why is it Required?
    - Federal Requirement
    - Federal Funding
    - Transportation Program
  - Project on or adjacent to a State Right-of-Way?
    - Must follow SHA policies and requirements
    - Ex: Sidewalk width minimum 5ft
  - Project on Local Property?
    - Must follow federal requirements
    - Ex: Sidewalk width min. 3ft w/passing zones every 200ft
  - SHA Shared-Use Path Guidelines:
    - [http://roads.maryland.gov/ohd2/bike\\_policy\\_and\\_design\\_guide.pdf](http://roads.maryland.gov/ohd2/bike_policy_and_design_guide.pdf)

# Design Procurement

- Acquiring *Design Services* MUST follow federal procurement requirements
- The Request for Proposals (RFPs) should be reviewed and approved by SHA prior to solicitation to ensure services will be reimbursable
- Following your County/Town process does not ensure it will be approved by SHA
- If you want to use the same consultant for 30%-100% design as you used to complete the application and preliminary plans, you will have to verify you met the federal requirements during your RFP process.

# Application Review Process

START :



# Applications

Transportation Alternatives Program

Send all applications to Jessica Shearer at SHA

**Accepted April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Electronic Application & Hardcopy Plans

Applications can be found at:

<http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=144>

# Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

<http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/fed-lands-maryland.aspx>

# What is a Federal Lands access transportation facility?

- A public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system
- Must be located on, adjacent to, or provide access to Federal lands
- Title or maintenance responsibility is vested in State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government

# Eligible Activities

- Transportation planning, research, engineering, preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of Federal lands access transportation facilities
  - adjacent vehicular parking areas;
  - acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites;
  - provisions for pedestrians and bicycles;
  - environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity;
  - construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities; and
- Operation and maintenance of transit facilities

# FLAP Funding

- Distributed by formula among States
- MD FY 2014 = approx. \$500,000
- MD FY 2015 = \$460,000
- 80/20 (match requirement)
- No minimum or maximum requirements
- Federal funding = Federal procurement process requirements
- The facility owner must be the applicant

# Evaluation Criteria

- **Evaluation Criteria for Selecting Projects**
- Endorsed by pertinent Federal agency as a high priority?
- High-use Federal facility/Federal economic generator?
- Consistent with State's Goals?
- Project sponsor can provide 20% match?
- Realistic scope, schedule, and budget?
  
- Additional Factors:
  - ◆ Safety
  - ◆ Accessibility & Mobility
  - ◆ Preservation
  - ◆ Environmental Quality & Sustainability

# 2015 Applications

- Accepted January 19<sup>th</sup> through April 17th
- Information will be posted on the Eastern Federal Lands (EFL) website:

[www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/federal-lands-access.aspx](http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/federal-lands-access.aspx)

# Contact Information

**Please contact us at any time to discuss potential projects, questions regarding eligibility, design guidelines, etc.**

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