

North Dakota

Department of Transportation

*Transportation Alternatives (TA)  
Program*

*Application Instructions*  
For Federal Fiscal Year 2026

Prepared by:  
NDDOT  
Local Government Division  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
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[www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov)



# Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Application Instructions

This document provides instructions for applying for the NDDOT's Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. The previous Urban (\$290,000) and Rural (\$200,000) federal fund limits have been removed.

The use of an application form is not necessary; you may use your own word document program in preparing this application. However, follow the same order and provide the requested information as required in these instructions. Please answer all questions fully. Providing additional information that will more fully explain and support your proposed project is welcomed.

The use of colored maps and photographs is encouraged to help describe your project. All information and supporting documentation must be on 8 1/2" x 11" or 11" x 17" paper.

Additional information on the TA Program is available on NDDOT's website  
<https://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/localgov/TA.htm>

Projects in MPO jurisdictions (see page 4) must be submitted to the local MPO, with the MPO making the submittal to NDDOT. MPO submittal dates are as follows:

Bismarck – Mandan MPO	October 20, 2023
Grand Forks – East Grand Forks MPO	November 29, 2023

## **Applications must be received by the NDDOT on December 29, 2023.**

The completed application along with all supporting documentation (maps, photographs, letters of support, and other attachments) should be scanned in color if applicable, and submitted by email to:

TA Program Manager Pam Wenger at [pwenger@nd.gov](mailto:pwenger@nd.gov)

This application is for projects for federal fiscal year 2026 (October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026). Projects must be ready for construction during the 2026 construction season.

Therefore, final plans, permits, certifications, etc. need to be completed and submitted by January 1, 2026, and will be scheduled to be bid in the spring of 2026. Federal funds may be lost if the project cannot be bid in the spring of 2026.

NDDOT welcomes all inquiries. If you have any questions or comments about the TA Program or the application process, please contact Pam Wenger at [pwenger@nd.gov](mailto:pwenger@nd.gov) or 701-328-4787 or TTY 1-800-366-6888.

## TA Federal Funding

TA provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. They include pedestrian and bicycle facilities; safe routes to school projects; safe routes for non-drivers; community improvement activities; and environmental mitigation projects.

TA funds will be awarded through a statewide competitive process that is reviewed by the TA Project Selection Committee.

The TA funds for FY 2026 are estimated to be based on population suballocations:

- Rural – less than 5,000 population – \$1,365,296
- Urban – 5,000 to 50,000 population – \$612,909
- Urban – 50,000 to 200,000 population – \$807,759
- TMA – Greater than 200,000 population - \$777,571
- Available for any area - \$2,476,356

TA funds require matching monies. The ratio is 80.93% federal and 19.07% local. For example, a project that is estimated to cost \$150,000 would be funded at \$121,395 federal (TA) and \$28,605 local.

**The maximum award for Urban (\$290,000) and Rural (\$200,000) projects has been removed, there is no longer a capped amount.**

It is important to note that costs incurred prior to FHWA project approval are not eligible for reimbursement. **TA funds eligible for reimbursement include project construction costs only.**

Ineligible costs include: all planning, preliminary engineering, construction engineering, environmental impact mitigation, right of way acquisition, utilities, and those construction items that are not eligible for federal aid.

### Urban Projects

All urban projects will be suballocated out based on population

- Urban – 5,000 to 50,000 population – Devils Lake, Dickinson, Jamestown, Valley City, Wahpeton, Watford City, and Williston.
- Urban – 50,000 to 200,000 population – Bismarck, Mandan, Minot, and Grand Forks
- TMA – Greater than 200,000 population – Fargo, West Fargo, majority of Horace

If a TA project is within the urbanized boundary of the MPO, it will be considered an urban project and should be submitted as such.

### TMA Projects

Transportation Alternative projects within the designated urbanized area of Fargo, West Fargo and Horace are considered TMA projects and must be coordinated with the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG). The TA solicitation for the Fargo area TMA is conducted by Metro COG. For more information about this solicitation or if you are unsure if your project is within Metro COG's planning area, please contact Metro COG using the following contact information:

Fargo – Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro COG)  
1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North  
Case Plaza, Suite 232  
Fargo, ND 58102-4807  
701-532-5100

### **Rural Projects**

All other cities and all counties. Projects along state and local roadways are encouraged.

### **Eligible Project Applicants**

- City and county governments
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal governments
- MPO that serves an urban area with a population of 200,000 or fewer.
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails.

### **Nonprofit Organizations**

A nonprofit organization must partner with an eligible project applicant. The eligible project applicant would submit the application and be responsible for the project if it is awarded funds.

### **Eligible Project Sponsors**

**Applications must be submitted to the NDDOT through one of the following entities:**

- All Cities
- Board of County Commissioners
- Tribal Government
- Transit Agencies
- MPO that serves an urban area with a population of 200,000 or fewer
- Federal and State Agencies

All other eligible applicants including school districts and park districts need to partner with their respective city or county.

All projects within the jurisdiction of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) need to be submitted to the MPO by their respective deadline for MPO approval and submittal to the NDDOT.

### **MPO Coordination**

Projects in or near Grand Forks or Bismarck/Mandan must be coordinated with the local MPO. If you are unsure if your project is within the MPO jurisdiction, contact the MPO office in your area. MPO contact information is as follows:

Grand Forks - East Grand Forks MPO  
P.O. Box 5200  
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200  
701-746-2657

Bismarck - Mandan MPO  
221 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58506  
701-355-1848

### **Project Development**

If your project is selected for TA funding, you will be notified of your award in the spring of 2024. Upon notification of award, commencement of project development is expected. The Local Government Division will work with you during the project development phase which typically consists of an environmental document and plan preparation. The [Local Government Manual](#) provides a reference source explaining the process of developing federal aid projects for local public agencies (LPAs).

The environmental document is a decision- making tool used for project alternative selection and for obtaining environmental clearance.

The next step in project development is the preparation of a set of plans that will be used for the bidding of your project. Plans must be prepared by the proper professional, e.g., Professional Engineer, Registered Architect, or Landscape Architect. All TA projects must be bid through NDDOT.

### **Treatment of Projects**

The treatment of projects means that all projects carried out using TA funds must comply with applicable provisions in United States Code of Regulation Title 23, such as project agreements, authorization to proceed prior to incurring costs, prevailing wage rates (Davis-Bacon), Buy America, competitive bidding, and other contracting requirements, regardless of whether the projects are located within the right of way of a federal aid highway.

Projects must be ready for construction during the 2026 construction season. Therefore, final plans, permits, certifications, etc. need to be completed and submitted by January 1, 2026, and will be scheduled to be bid in the spring of 2026. Federal funds may be lost if the project cannot be bid in the spring of 2026.

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1. Project Name**

Provide the name of your project. This name will be used to identify the project; it should reflect the project scope or purpose.

### **2. Project Location**

Fully describe the location of your project. Include a map showing the location and length of your project.

### **3. Project Contact**

Name of the group or agency requesting the TA project.

### **4. Contact Person**

Provide the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person who is directing this project.

## 5. Project Sponsor

Provide the name of the governmental agency sponsoring the project. Your project must be sponsored by:

- City
- Board of County Commissioners
- Tribal Government
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Transit Agencies
- Federal and State Agencies

All other eligible applicants including school districts and park districts need to partner with their respective city. All projects within the jurisdiction of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) need to be submitted to the MPO by their respective deadline for MPO approval and submittal to the NDDOT.

## 6. Sponsoring Official

Provide the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the contact person at the governmental agency sponsoring the project. A city under 5,000 no longer is required to partner with their respective Board of County Commissioners.

## 7. Project Description

Fully describe your project. This should include, but is not necessarily limited to, a description of what is planned by including typical sections, site plans, drawings, sketches, right of way requirements, length of project, etc. If your project is in phases, please describe the phases and which phase you are requesting for TA funding.

## 8. Project Cost

Enter the estimated cost of your project. A detailed copy of the estimate and who prepared it should be provided. A maximum of 80.93% of eligible costs can be funded with federal aid TA funds.

***Eligible costs include:*** Project construction costs.

***Ineligible costs include:*** All planning, preliminary engineering, construction engineering, environmental impact mitigation, right of way acquisition, utilities, and those construction items that are not eligible for federal aid. Also, ineligible would be any construction costs incurred before the project has been approved by FHWA for funding.

## 9. What TA category best fits your project?

Identify the category and type of project you believe best fits your project. To be eligible for Transportation Alternatives funding, your project must fit into one of these categories and must relate to surface transportation.

- A. Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- B. Construction of infrastructure related projects that will substantially improve the ability of

- students to walk and bicycle to school.
- C. Construction of infrastructure related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
  - D. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.
  - E. Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
  - F. Community improvement activities, including:
    - historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities that are continuing to, or upon rehabilitation, function for their intended transportation purpose.
    - 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; and
    - streetscape improvements and corridor landscaping.
  - G. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to:
    - address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities described in 23 U.S.C. 133(b)(11), 328(a), and 329; or
    - reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

## 10. Supporting Data

Answers to the following will help the reviewers obtain a better understanding of your project. Additional information you believe that will more fully explain and support your proposed project or activity is welcomed.

- Is your project part of an identified recreation or transportation plan? If so, explain.
- Is your project tied to another project? If so, please explain.
- How does your project fit with similar projects in your community and/or region?
- Provide documentation of governmental agencies that are in support of this project. Also, please provide documentation of support, if any, from the general public, other groups, and organizations.

## 11. Public Accessibility

To be eligible for consideration, **this property must be accessible to the public**. Provide the name of the entity that will be the owner of this project when it is completed.

## 12. Matching Funds Provided By

TA funds require matching monies. The ratio is 80.93% federal and 19.07% local. Identify who will provide the matching funds and how these funds are to be obtained. The project sponsor must assure NDDOT that the matching funds will be available and from nonfederal sources unless applicant is a Federal or Tribal entity.

## 13. Will Right of Way For This Project Be Needed?

Will additional right of way be needed for your project? If so, its acquisition will have to be in accordance with federal regulations. Right of way acquisition costs are not eligible for federal aid. Does the project intersect any railroads? If yes, there may need to be agreements for any proposed

crossing improvements or for work to be authorized inside the railroad right of way.

#### **14. Maintenance of This Project Will Be Provided By:**

**The sponsor is responsible for providing or making arrangements for maintenance of the project.** Provide the name of the person, agency, or group that will maintain this project after its completion.

NDDOT will only enter into maintenance agreements with the project sponsor. If the sponsor does not wish to provide maintenance, they can develop a pass-through agreement with the party requesting the project, requiring them to maintain the project. The sponsor, however, will remain responsible to ensure to the NDDOT that the project is being maintained.

#### **15. Environmental Impacts**

Impacts of projects can be both beneficial and adverse. The following is a list of some categories that must be addressed. If there are additional categories that you feel need to be addressed, please add them. **If your project is selected, you will be responsible to obtain necessary environmental clearances and permits.**

- Land Use - Describe changes or potential changes this project will have upon land use in the vicinity.
- Farmland - If any farmlands are to be used for this project, identify what their present usage is.
- Social - Describe the project's impact upon the neighborhood and community.
- Section 4(f) & 6(f) - Are there any impacts to Section 4(f) or Section 6(f) properties?
- Economic - Describe the project's economic impact.
- Relocation - Will this project require the displacement of any people or businesses?
- Wetlands - Will this project result in fill material being placed in any wetlands?
- Floodplain - Is this project within a floodplain?
- Threatened or Endangered Species - Are there any threatened or endangered species in the project vicinity?
- Cultural Resources - Are there any properties on or eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places in the project vicinity?
- Hazardous Waste - Are there any hazardous waste sites in the area?

#### **16. Required Signatures and Dates**

**Contact Person** - This is the person identified in item 4 who will be responsible for the management and implementation of your proposed project.

**Responsible Official** - This is the person identified in item 6.

**MPO Official** - If your project is within a MPO area, the MPO Director must sign.

#### **17. Attachments**