

Q: My city or organization is interested in applying for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

For all questions related to the Transportation Alternatives Program, and application process, please contact

Corean Johnson Administrative Assistant 334-353-6438 johnsoncor@dot.state.al.us

Q: What is the Transportation Alternative Program?

Congress passed the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” or the “MAP-21” making federal funds available for transportation alternatives activities.

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) administers the (TAP) Program in accordance with all established federal laws and regulations, acquisition of rights-of-way, labor and design standards and financial accounting. Potential projects must qualify as one of the eligible activities as defined in the MAP-21 transportation legislation and have a governmental sponsor. Each year prospective sponsors submit applications to ALDOT for consideration. Applications are reviewed for eligibility, rated on their merits and recommended to the Director of Transportation for selection.

ALDOT assigns the oversight and administration of the TAP Program to the Bureau of Transportation Planning and Modal Programs located in the Central Office Complex in Montgomery. The Special Programs Section provides this oversight and administration and includes sponsor application review and selection, obtaining environmental concurrences from US Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife and Alabama Historical Commission and preparing agreements with the sponsors of the projects. ALDOT’s Region Offices have the responsibility for oversight of the TAP projects that are approved for implementation.

Transportation alternatives activities are defined as...

1. Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian lighting, downtown streetscape (combination of sidewalks, pedestrian lighting and landscaping), and other transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
2. 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.
3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
4. Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

5. Community improvement activities, including-

- I. Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising;
- II. Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities;
- III. Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and
- IV. Archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under Title 23.

6. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to-

- I. Address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.
- II. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.