

**Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Transportation Alternatives Program**

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**Program Purpose**

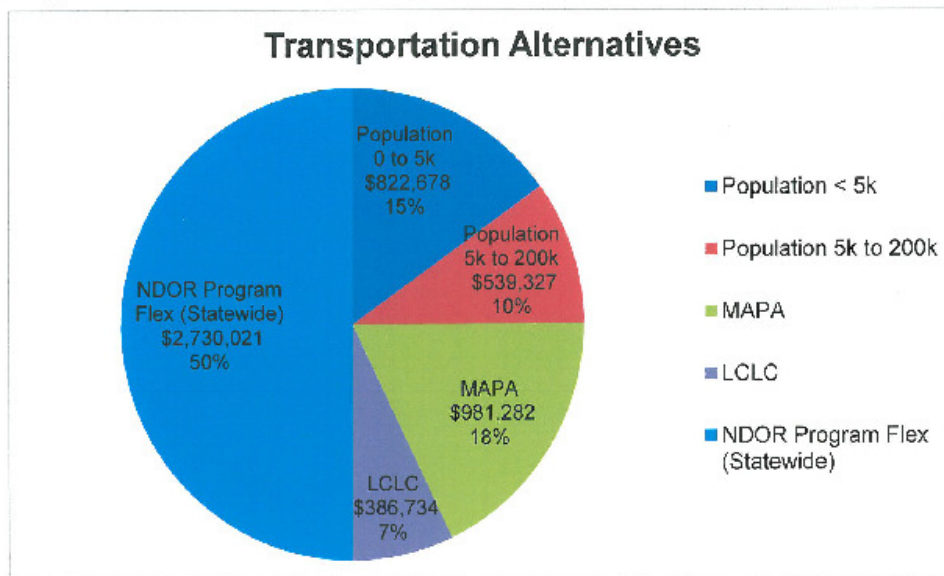
The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a new program identified in *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century* (MAP-21) which took effect on October 1, 2012. This program provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for the planning, design or construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

The TAP replaces the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including Transportation Enhancements, Recreational Trails, Safe Routes to School, and several other discretionary programs, wrapping them into a single funding source. [MAP-21 §1122; 23 USC 101, 206, 213]

**TAP Funding Under MAP 21**

Funding Levels under MAP 21 provide for the reservation of funds apportioned to a State to carry out TAP. The national total reserved for TAP is equal to 2 percent of the total amount authorized from the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund for Federal-aid highways each fiscal year. Each State's TAP funding is determined by dividing the national total among the States based on each State's proportionate share of FY 2009 Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding. The following graphic shows the distribution of Nebraska TAP under MAP-21:

| Transportation Alternatives   | Apportionment       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Population < 5k               | \$ 822,678          |
| Population 5k to 200k         | \$ 539,327          |
| MAPA                          | \$ 981,282          |
| LCLC                          | \$ 386,734          |
| NDOR Program Flex (Statewide) | \$ 2,730,021        |
| <b>Total Apportionment</b>    | <b>\$ 5,460,042</b> |



### Lincoln MPO: Current Estimated TA Funds Allocated per Fiscal Year

| Fiscal Year          | FY 2013   | FY 2014   | FY 2015 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Apportionment        | \$386,734 | \$386,734 | \$0     |
| Funding Obligation * | \$367,650 | \$367,650 | \$0     |

\* Obligation Authority is typically 95% of Apportionment

Period of Availability: TAP is funded by contract authority from the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund. TAP funds are available for obligation for a period of 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the funds are authorized (23 U.S.C. 118).

Obligation Limitation: TAP funds are subject to the annual obligation limitation imposed on the Federal-aid highway program.

Federal share: The Federal share for TAP projects is governed by 23 U.S.C. 120. The Federal share generally is 80 percent, subject to the sliding scale adjustment. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) projects funded under the RTP set-aside shall use the RTP Federal share provisions under 23 U.S.C. 206(f), which allows some additional flexibility, especially for the non-Federal share.

### Eligible activities

Eligible applicants include tribal governments, local governments, transit agencies, and school districts. Options are included to allow States flexibility in use of these funds. Funds may be used for projects or activities that are related to surface transportation and described in the definition of “Transportation Alternatives.”

- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation.
- Construction, planning, and design 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.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other nonmotorized transportation users.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Community improvement activities, including—
  - ▶ 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; and
  - ▶ archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under 23 USC.
- 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; or
  - ▶ reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

In addition to defined Transportation Alternatives (as described above), the following projects or activities are eligible:

- The recreational trails program under 23 USC 206.
- The safe routes to school program under §1404 of SAFETEA-LU.
- Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.
- Workforce development, training, and education activities are also eligible uses of TAP funds. [§52004; 23 USC 504(e)]

## **Project Selection**

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with an urbanized area having more than 200,000 people is to conduct a competitive application process for use of the suballocated funds and all projects are to be included in the approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Lincoln MPO, in consultation with the State, is continuing to use the basic project selection criteria employed in the previous NDOR TE process. The Lincoln MPO TAP Committee reviewed and revalidated with necessary scheduling adjustments the previously programmed TE projects within the planning area (Lancaster County) and converted these to TAP projects.

The NDOR and the Lincoln MPOs project selection process will move forward separately but in order to maintain a fiscally constrained schedule of projects, NDOR is supporting some joint project funding and funding overlap for the current program of projects. Attached is the current listing of Lincoln MPO TAP and SRTS Projects for FY 2013 through FY 2016 which are programmed in the Lincoln MPOs FY 2013-2016 TIP.

Due to the current backlog of Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects that were competitively selected, converted to TAP projects and programmed current Lincoln MPOs FY 2013-2016 TIP, the application process for TAP funds is currently closed.

## **Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternatives Project Programming Committee**

The *Lincoln MPO Management Plan* identifies regular committee meetings and advisory subcommittees to assist in the transportation planning process and in developing required programs and documents. Recommendations from the Lincoln MPO TAP Committee are forwarded to the MPO Technical and Officials Committees for review and acceptance.

| <u>Staff</u>   | <u>Position</u>            | <u>Agency</u>                      |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mike Brienzo   | Transportation Planner     | Planning Department                |
| David Cary     | Long Range Manager         | Planning Department                |
| Randy Hoskins  | Assistant City Engineer    | Public Works: Engineering Services |
| Thomas Shafer  | Design/Constr Manager      | Public Works: Engineering Services |
| Terry Genrich  | Greenways & Trails Manager | Lincoln Parks & Recreation Dept.   |
| Brian Praeuner | Transit Planner            | Public Works: StarTran             |
| Doug Pillard   | Design Division Head       | Lancaster County Engineering       |

## Current List of Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Projects

| CN#   | Project #    | Project Name                                       | Original FY TE Funds Programmed in TIP | Estimated Year PS&E Ready | Project Sponsor | Estimated Project Costs Not Obligated | Proposed TA Program Funding | Proposed FY Programmed in TIP | Agency Responsible For TA Funds |
|-------|--------------|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12781 | STPB-55(151) | Haymarket Ball Park Trail                          | FY 2013                                | FY 2013                   | LPSNRD          | \$701,494                             | \$561,200                   | FY 2013                       | NDOR                            |
| 12945 | ENH-55(164)  | Lincoln Rosa Parks Way Trail                       | FY 2012/13                             | FY 2014                   | LPSNRD          | \$362,943                             | \$290,300                   | FY 2014 Stby                  | NDOR                            |
| 13079 | ENH-55(172)  | Lincoln Cavett Connector Trail                     | FY 2013                                | FY 2014                   | Lincoln         | \$369,594                             | \$295,700                   | FY 2014                       | MPO                             |
| 12880 | ENH-55(160)  | Jamaica North Trail - Phase 2B                     | FY 2012/13                             | FY 2013                   | Lincoln         | \$569,143                             | \$452,800                   | FY 2013                       | MPO                             |
| 12946 | ENH-5266(2)  | Lincoln West "O" Historic Project                  | FY 2012/13                             | FY 2013                   | Lincoln         | \$744,347                             | \$595,500                   | FY 2013                       | NDOR                            |
| 13134 | ENH-55(174)  | Hickman Road Trail Connections                     | FY 2012/13                             | FY 2015                   | Lincoln         | \$832,400                             | \$665,920                   | FY 2016                       | MPO                             |
| 13213 | ENH-55(177)  | Lincoln Stonebridge Trail                          | FY 2013/14                             | FY 2015                   | Lincoln         | \$559,000                             | \$447,200                   | FY 2015                       | MPO                             |
| 13187 | SRTS-55(176) | SRTS Pedal to Prescott Infrastructure              | FY 2013                                | FY 2015                   | Prescott        | \$128,328                             | \$128,328                   | FY 2015                       | NDOR                            |
| 13228 | SRTS-55(178) | Lincoln Walks to School Non-Infrastructure Project | FY 2013                                |                           |                 |                                       | \$75,800                    | obligated                     | NDOR                            |

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