


Arkansas FY2026

Transportation Alternatives Program Recreational Trails Program Informational Session


February 12, 2026 | February 24, 2026




1




Welcome







This session is being recorded




www.ardot.gov/tap
and
www.ardot.gov/rtp




You're logged in with mute locked




Chat your questions




Answers will be posted on our websites.




2




Welcome







Minghua Qiu Miller, P.E.
Staff Engineer



Aaron Pinedo, P.E.
Senior Engineer











Brighton Huynh
Engineer




3

Agenda



- Welcome 
- General Information 
- Eligibility 
- Guidelines 
- Federal Requirements 
- Submittable 
- Questions and Answers 



4

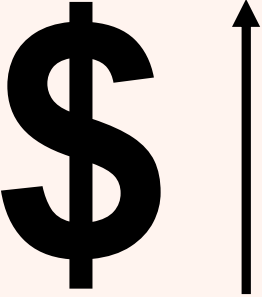
General Information

5




6

Guideline Updates

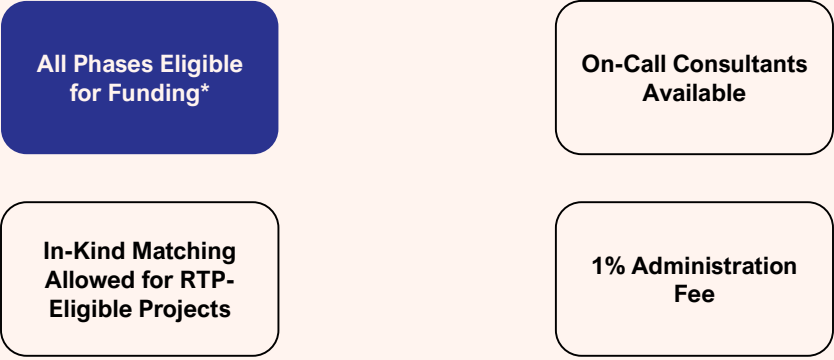


- Maximum funding cap **removed** from \$500,000
- Minimum infrastructure request **increased** from \$20,000 to \$50,000




7

Guideline Highlights



- All Phases Eligible for Funding*
- On-Call Consultants Available
- In-Kind Matching Allowed for RTP-Eligible Projects
- 1% Administration Fee



8



Guideline Highlights

All Phases Eligible for Funding*

In-Kind Matching Allowed for RTP-Eligible Projects

On-Call Consultants Available

1% Administration Fee



9



Guideline Highlights

All Phases Eligible for Funding*

In-Kind Matching Allowed for RTP-Eligible Projects

On-Call Consultants Available


1% Administration Fee



10

Guideline Highlights


- All Phases Eligible for Funding*
- On-Call Consultants Available
- In-Kind Matching Allowed for RTP-Eligible Projects
- 1% Administration Fee



11

Application Cycle Timeline

<i>Application Cycle</i>	<i>TAP & RTP Committee Evaluation</i>	<i>Arkansas State Highway Commission Review</i>	<i>Awards Announcement</i>
Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Fall 2026



12


Eligibility

13

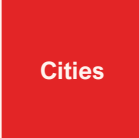


14


Eligible TAP Sponsors




Local or
Regional
Agencies




Cities




Counties




Unincorporated
Communities




Transit Agencies




Natural
Resource/Public
Land Agencies




Education
Organizations



501(c)(3)




Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations

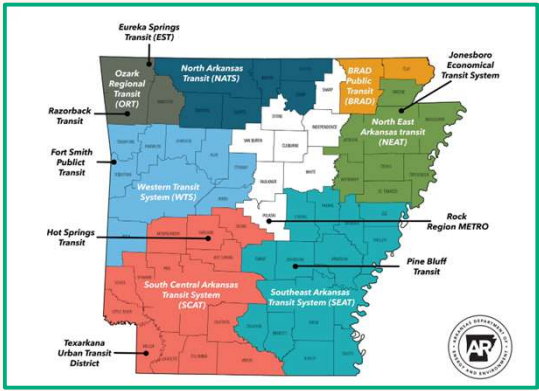



15

Eligible TAP Sponsors




Transit Agencies







Natural
Resource/Public
Land Agencies




Education
Organizations



501(c)(3)



Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations



16

Eligible TAP Sponsors

Natural Resource/Public Land Agencies

Water Wildlife Parks

Education Organization 501(c)(3) Metropolitan Planning Organizations

AR/DOT ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

17

Eligible TAP Sponsors

Education Organizations

Schools School Districts

Higher Education Local Education Agencies

501(c)(3) Metropolitan Planning Organizations

AR/DOT ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

18

Eligible TAP Sponsors

501(c)(3)

- Can be sole sponsor **only** for RTP-Eligible Projects
- For non RTP-Eligible Projects, **must** partner with an eligible government agency

Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations

19

Eligible TAP Sponsors

Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations

MPOs with Populations Under 200,000

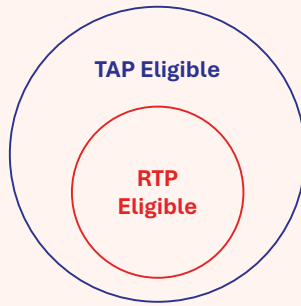
MPOs with Populations Over 200,000

20



Eligible TAP Projects

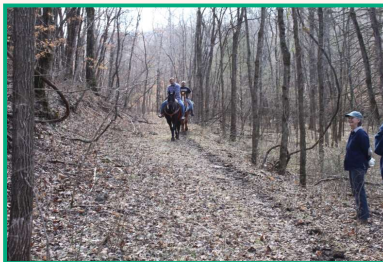
All RTP-Eligible Projects
are TAP-Eligible



21



Eligible TAP Projects



Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation



22



Eligible TAP Projects



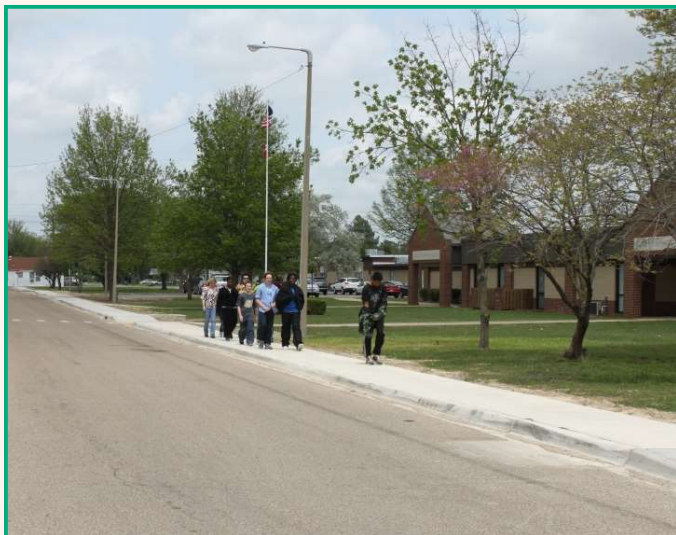
Sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, lighting, and other safety-related infrastructure



23



Eligible TAP Projects



Infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers



24

Eligible TAP Projects



The conversion and use of abandoned rail corridors for non-motorized trails



25

Eligible TAP Projects



Community improvement activities such as streetscaping, the rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, and vegetation management practices



26



Eligible TAP Projects



Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas



27



Eligible TAP Projects



Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and abatement activities



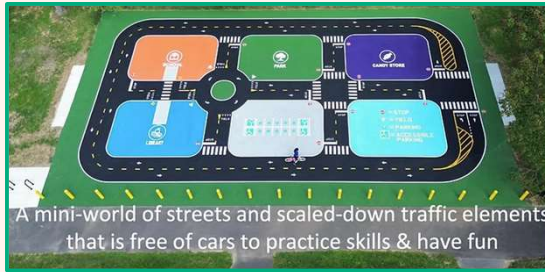
28



Eligible TAP Projects



Noninfrastructure-related activities to encourage walking and bicycling to school, including educational activities



A mini-world of streets and scaled-down traffic elements that is free of cars to practice skills & have fun



29



Eligible TAP Projects

Interstate 555 Corridor Study

December 2021 Public Involvement Meeting

The material below was presented at a public meeting on December 7, 2021 and is provided below for your review.



Planning or vulnerable road user safety studies



30

Eligible TAP Projects

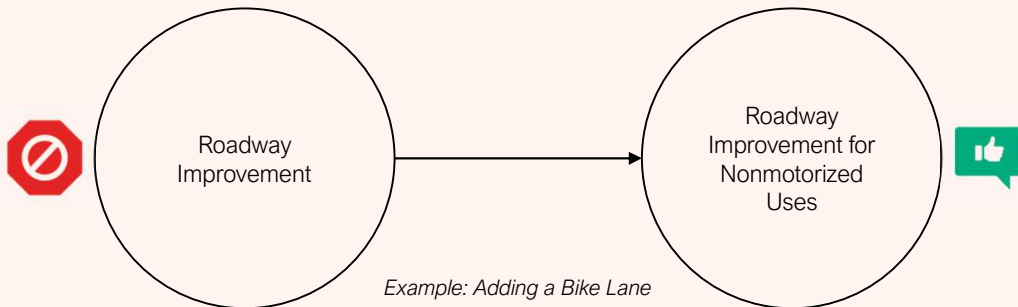


Micromobility sharing or maintenance stations

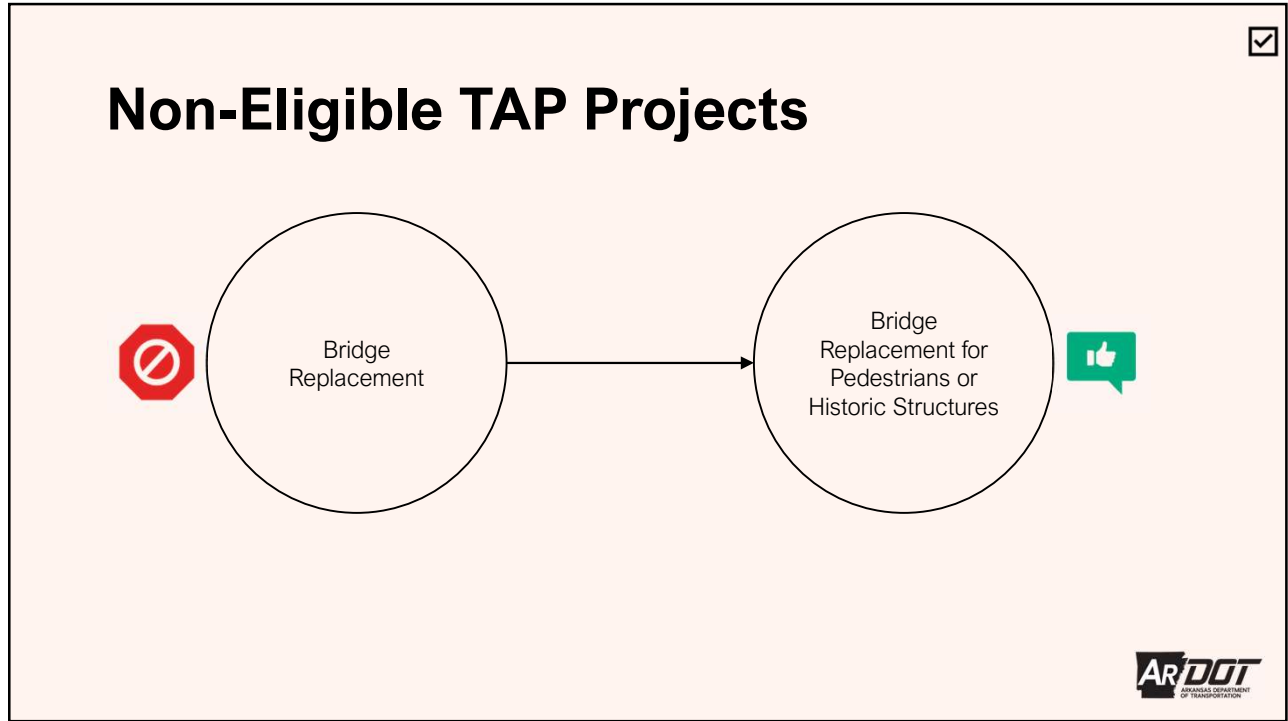


31

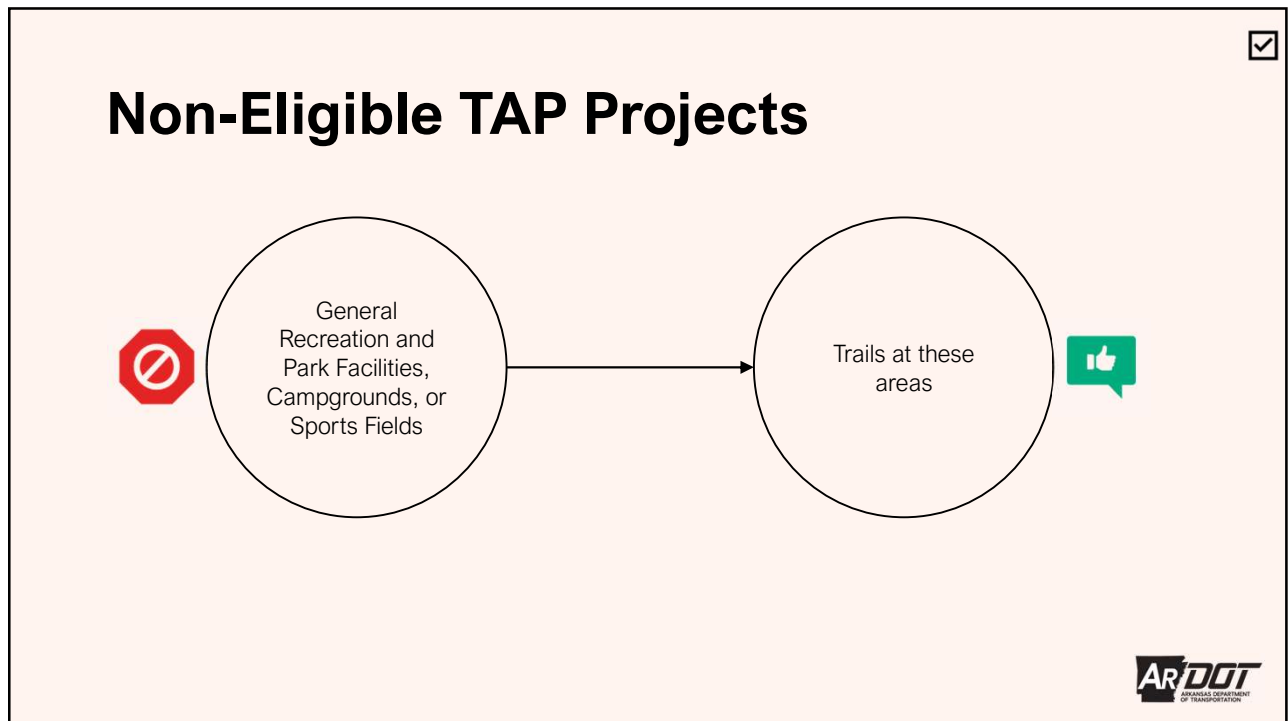
Non-Eligible TAP Projects



32



33




34


☑


Non-Eligible TAP Projects

Playground
Equipment, Picnic
Tables, Decorative
Fountains,
Pavilions



Fancy or Ornate
Entrance/Name
Signs or Welcome
Signs





35



36

Eligible RTP Sponsors

Private
Organizations


Municipal
Agencies

State Agencies

Federal
Agencies

Other
Governmental

501(c)(3)'s, trail clubs, conservation organizations, private schools, colleges or universities, etc.



37

Eligible RTP Sponsors

Private
Organizations


Municipal
Agencies

State Agencies

Federal
Agencies

Other
Governmental

City or County Governments, School Districts, Public Utilities, etc.



38

Eligible RTP Sponsors

Private
Organizations


Municipal
Agencies

State Agencies

Federal
Agencies

Other
Governmental

Parks, Game & Fish, Universities, Colleges, Schools, etc.



39

Eligible RTP Sponsors

Private
Organizations


Municipal
Agencies

State Agencies

Federal
Agencies

Other
Governmental

Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, etc.



40

Eligible RTP Sponsors

Private
Organizations


Municipal
Agencies

State Agencies

Federal
Agencies

Other
Governmental

River authorities, planning districts, tribal governments, etc.



41

Eligible RTP Projects



Construction of new recreational trails



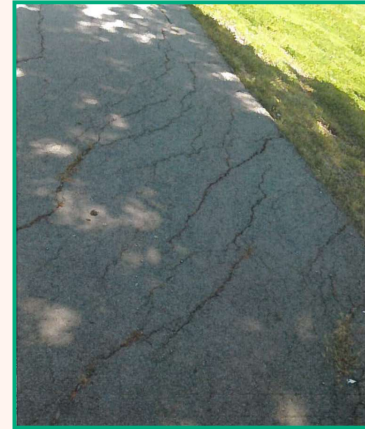
42



Eligible RTP Projects



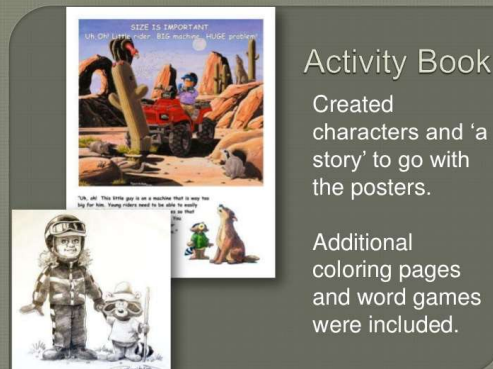
Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.



43



Eligible RTP Projects



Activity Book

Created characters and 'a story' to go with the posters.

Additional coloring pages and word games were included.

Educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as related to the use of recreational trails.



44



Eligible RTP Projects



Development & rehabilitation of trailside, trailhead and trail linkages.



45



Eligible RTP Projects

All Year Open Application



Off road recreational trails using any motor-powered vehicle, except for motorized wheelchair.



46


Non-Eligible RTP Projects

Playground
Equipment,
Picnic Tables,
Decorative
Fountains

Equipment
Purchase or
Maintenance of
Equipment Costs

Ornate
Landscaping

Sidewalks



47


Program Guidelines

48

Reimbursement Program

No funding provided up front

```
graph LR; A[Sponsor sends invoice.] --> B[ARDOT reviews and reimburses.]
```



49

Sponsor will administer the contract

This is your project.

```
graph LR; A[Sponsor sends documents for concurrence.] --> B[ARDOT reviews.]
```



50

Follow federal requirements at risk of losing funds.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Davis-Bacon wage rates, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the "Uniform Act" and other applicable provisions



51

Sponsor may submit multiple applications for separate projects.

They must be prioritized.



52

Funding

No maximum federal funding cap for all TAP and RTP.

\$50,000 minimum federal funding request for projects containing infrastructure components.

Total Project	Federal Funds	Min. Local Share
100%	80%	20%

Total Project	Federal Funds	Min. Local Share
\$62,500	\$50,000	\$12,500

All projects must include a 20% match from the sponsor, no matter what type of project.

53

Funding

All phases are eligible!

Preliminary Engineering

✓

Right-of-Way Acquisition

✓

Utility Relocation

✓

Advertising and Awarding

✓

Construction Engineering

✓

Construction

✓


Encourage new Sponsors to apply for PE if construction estimates are uncertain.

54

Funding

ARDOT On-Call Consultants	Sponsor Procured Consultant
Available upon request	Sponsor must undertake procurement process to select consultant
ARDOT <i>handles</i> procurement process	ARDOT <i>reviews</i> procurement process
Funds expended prior to award will <i>not be eligible for reimbursement</i> .	

Can simplify federal-aid process for new Sponsors.



55


Funding

1% ARDOT Administrative Fee on TAP & RTP projects

This fee is 100% Sponsor funds and will not be counted towards the 20% match.

The 1% fee is waived for nonprofit using in-kind match

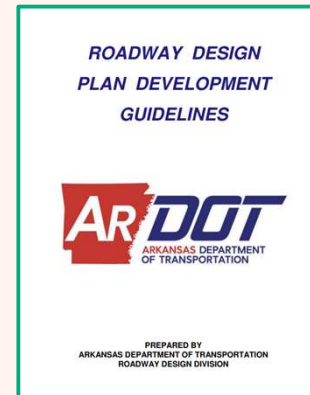
Funding Scenario	Project Cost	Awarded TAP or RTP Funds	1% Admin Fee
Normal Award	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$5,000
Non-Profit Using In-Kind Match	\$500,000 + In-Kind Resource	\$200,000	\$0



56

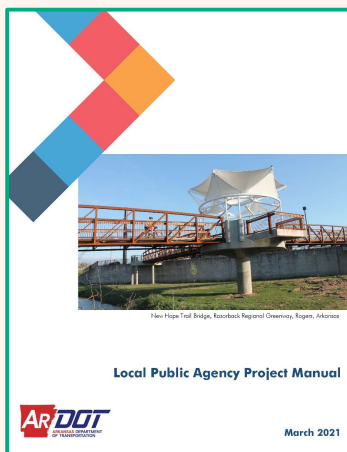
Design

- Design Plans will need to be certified by a Registered Arkansas Professional Engineer if the project requires design of any structural components (sidewalks, asphalt trails, retaining walls, bridges, etc.)
 - Plans for natural-surface trails will not require stamped plans
- Projects which include only non-infrastructure components will not require design plans (ex: education, walking school bus, planning document)
- ARDOT design guidelines can be found at: <https://www.ardot.gov/divisions/roadway-design/guidelines-manuals/>



57

Local Public Agency (LPA) Manual



The [LPA Manual](#) is a guide for locally-administered transportation projects that utilize federal funds.

The procedures outlined in the manual address both state and federal requirements.

Can be found at: www.ardot.gov/lpa



58

LPA Manual Contents

What's in it?

- Information on funding programs
 - TAP
 - RTP
 - STBGP-Attrib. (MPO awarded)
 - TAP-Attrib. (MPO awarded)
- Project development processes for these programs
- Requirements for project phases
 - Consultant Selection
 - Environmental Documentation
 - Plan Development
 - Right of Way Acquisition
 - Utility Relocation
 - Letting and Award
 - Construction and Oversight



59

Federal Requirements

60



Don't lose your funding.

Plan with federal requirements in mind!



61



Major Right-of-Way Legislation

Uniform Act

Hillary Boshers
ROW Coordinator
ROW Division
(501) 837-8092
Hillary.Boshers@ardot.gov

Build America Buy America (Steel and Iron)

Blaine Gartrell
Utilities Section Head
ROW Division
(501) 569-2146
Blaine.Gartrell@ardot.gov

LPA Section
Local Programs Division
(501) 569-2481
LPA@ardot.gov



62



Don't lose your funding.

Please, do not speak with property owners about offers yet



63



Acquiring Right of Way

1. Determine who owns the land
2. Determine how the needed land will be acquired
3. Determine the fair market value of the land
4. Offer the property owner the derived value
5. If the owners agree, have them sign appropriate documentation
6. Pay the owners the agreed upon amount
7. Prepare a deed conveying the property
8. Once all property is acquired, certify the job



64



Environmental Clearance

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Routine documentation by ARDOT

Don Nichols
Section Head
Assessments Section
Environmental Division
(501) 569-2281
Don.Nichols@ardot.gov



65



Environmental Clearance

Known Environmental Impacts to Identify

- Endangered Species
- Lakes/Rivers/Streams
- Displacees
- Wetlands
- Floodplain/Floodway
- Landfills
- Federal Lands
- Historic Structures



66



67


Application Portal

Application is online

- Portal used is Submittable
- Must create an account
- Can transfer old account details to new
- Application can be saved
- Submission will be accompanied by an automatic confirmation email

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Local Programs Division
Email: LocalPrograms@ardot.gov
Phone: (479) 360-7161



News and Upcoming Events:
The 2026 TAP application cycle is now open!

The application cycle will close on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CDT.

[Apply Here](#)

Register for a 2026 TAP Application Information Session

Arkansas Transportation Alternatives Program & Recreational Trails Program 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name (required)

Limit: 300 characters

Sponsor (required)

This is the organization that will be receiving Federal-aid funding and overseeing the project.

Applicant Agency Type (required)

68



Cost Estimate Sheets

Fill in the amount for the requested phase

Put \$0 for all other phases not requested through Federal funds

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Phases	Total	Requested Federal Amount (80% maximum)	Local Match (20% minimum)	Notes (see below)
2	Planning (non-Infrastructure)	0			
3	Preliminary Engineering/Design	0			1
4	Environmental Documentation	0			2
5	Right of Way Acquisition	0			1
6	Utility Relocation	0			1
7	Construction	0			
8	Construction Engineering/Inspection	0			1
9	Sub Totals	0	0	0	3
		% Federal (80%)			

Please, make sure that the table matches the phases you are requesting

69

Cost Estimate Sheets

- Estimate should be itemized
- Items can be consolidated (i.e. "Lighting" vs. 15 specific separate items to go with lighting)
- "Construction" would not be a valid item. We want more detail than this.
- Allows ARDOT to check for program eligibility on the front end

	A	B	C	D	E
1				Total Est. Construction Cost	#VALUE!
2				Requested Federal Funds (80% maximum)	Requested Federal F
3				Local Match (20% minimum)	#VALUE!
4				% Federal (80% maximum)	#VALUE!
5	Item of Work	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Item Cost
6				\$	#VALUE!
7				\$	#VALUE!
8				\$	#VALUE!
9				\$	#VALUE!
10				\$	#VALUE!

Item of Work: This field is for you to enter each separate item anticipated for the project (i.e. rocks, sand, reinforced concrete pipe, etc).
Quantity: This field is for you to enter how many of this particular item you estimate will be needed for this project.
Units: This field is for you to specify what units (i.e. lbs, LF, tons, CY) the item on this row will be measured in.
Unit Cost: This field is for you to enter the cost of each unit for the particular item on this row.
Item Cost: This field will auto-calculate the total cost for each particular item.

70


Required Attachments

Resolution

Project Location Map(s)

Maintenance Statement

Deadline: Thursday, April 30, 2026, 4:00 PM CDT



71

Resolution

Samples can be found on the TAP or RTP websites, and Submittable.

Register for a 2026 TAP Application Information Session:
Both sessions will be virtual and feature identical content.

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.


Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

▼ 2026 TAP Application

Please use the link below to fill out the application. If applying for more than one project, a separate application will need to be completed each time.

- [Application Link](#)
- [Sample Resolution](#)

Committee will not evaluate any application until the resolution is received.



72

Requirements

Explicitly state that:

- The Governing body expresses support,
- The Governing body understands a local match is required,
- The Sponsor understands that these funds are: (1) reimbursable, and (2) Federal
- Project maintenance is required for the life of the project,
- The Sponsor's chief elected officer (CEO) has authority to enter into and execute appropriate agreements and contracts,
- The project will remain accessible to the public for the life of the project, and
- That there will be full cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. _____
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF
SPONSOR NAME
TO UTILIZE FEDERAL AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM OR RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS

WHEREAS, Sponsor Name understands Federal-aid Transportation Alternatives Program or Recreational Trails Program Funds are available at 80% federal participation and 20% local match to develop or improve **Project Name**, and

WHEREAS, Sponsor Name understands that Federal-aid Funds are available for this project on a reimbursable basis, requiring work to be accomplished and proof of payment prior to actual monetary reimbursement, and

WHEREAS, this project, using federal funding, will be open and available for use by the general public, and maintained by the applicant for the life of the project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SPONSOR'S GOVERNING BODY THAT:

SECTION I: **Sponsor Name** will participate in accordance with its designated responsibility, including maintenance of this project.

SECTION II: **Title of Sponsor's CEO/CAO** is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the construction of the above stated project.

SECTION III: **Sponsor's Governing Body** pledges its full support and hereby authorizes the Arkansas Department of Transportation to initiate action to implement this project.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Signed: _____
Name of Sponsor's CEO/CAO

ATTEST: _____
(SEAL)

Notes:

- "Sponsor Name" is the name of the Agency (i.e. the City of XXX, Universal County, the Arkansas Department of Trails)
- "Sponsor's Governing Body" is the group of individuals that make the final financial decisions for the Agency (i.e. City Council, Quorum Court, Board of Directors, Commission)
- "Sponsor's CEO/CAO" is the person in charge of the day-to-day activities at the agency (i.e. Mayor, City Manager, County Judge, Executive Director, etc.)
- "Project Name" is the name of the project from the application



73

Maps



Project Path

North Arrow

Landmarks

Legend
(if necessary)

Street Labels



74

Map Analysis

Clear Project Path

Helpful Labels

Some North Indicator

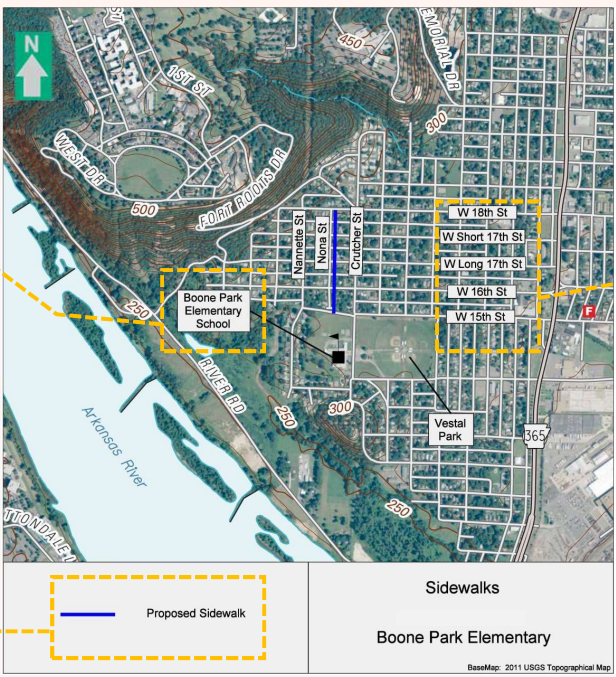


75

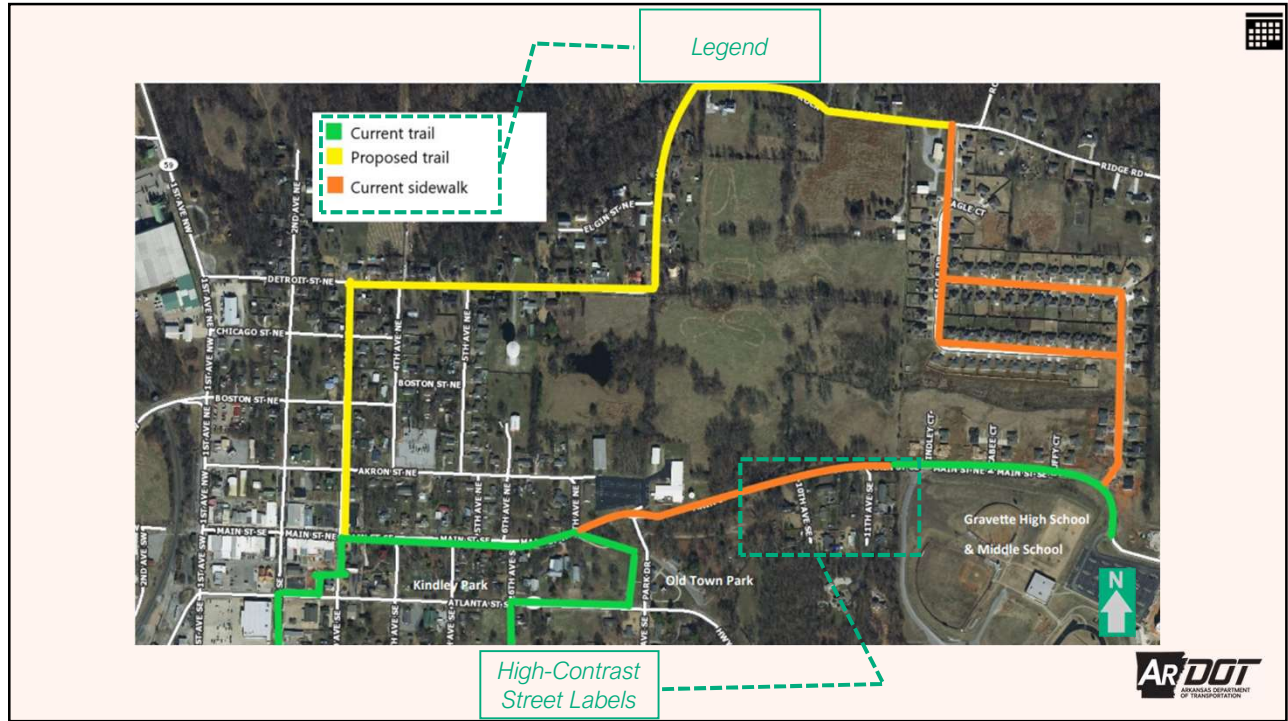
Relevant Landmark

Clear Street Labels

Legend



76



77

AP1

Maintenance Statement

Who'll maintain the project?	Maintenance Schedule?
Inspection Schedule	Checklists

AR/DOT
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

78

Optional Additional Attachments

Pictures

Plan Sheets

Letters of Support

Property Ownership Verification

SHPO Clearance








79

Application Walk-Through

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Local Programs Division
 Email: LocalPrograms@ardot.gov
 Phone: (479) 360-7161


News and Upcoming Events:

The 2026 TAP application cycle is now open!

The application cycle will close on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CDT.

[Apply Here](#)

Register for a 2026 TAP Application Information Session: [\[Link\]](#)



80

Q&A Session

Website (TAP): www.ardot.gov/tap

Website (RTP): www.ardot.gov/rtp

Contact: (479) 360-7161 | LocalPrograms@ardot.gov

