

AS A PROJECT SPONSOR YOU SHOULD:

- Include all elements of the application the State requests
- Provide a clear statement demonstrating the project's relationship to surface transportation
- Describe the project's relationship to one or more Transportation Enhancements activity
- Define a scope of work and include the preliminary studies, and land acquisition or construction needs
- Include a detailed budget and a work plan with a timeline
- Consider facilities for persons with disabilities
- Identify the source of the matching funds with a letter verifying their availability
- Explain how the community would benefit from the project
- Include letters of support, minutes from public meetings, and newspaper clips about the project
- If available, include photographs of the site, preliminary sketches, or plans
- Include a plan for project maintenance



Visitors to Lehigh Canal Park in Walnutport, PA can explore the revitalized locktender's house or walk along the restored 3 mile section of the Lehigh Canal. (Photo: Walnutport Canal Authority)



U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration
Office of Human Environment
400 Seventh Street, SW ■ HEPH-10
Washington, DC 20590

Phone: 202-366-0106

Web site: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment



National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse

A Project of the Federal Highway Administration and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

1100 17th Street, NW ■ 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-463-0641

Toll Free: 888-388-NTEC

Fax: 202-466-3742

Email: ntec@transact.org

Web site: www.enhancements.org

For your State TE coordinator's
contact information
visit NTEC's Web site
or call 888-388-NTEC.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



A Quick Guide to Transportation Enhancements

*MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES
MORE LIVABLE*

What is the Transportation Enhancements Program?

Congress created the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991 to address growing concerns about air quality, open space, and traffic congestion. One of the several programs in ISTEA dealt with Transportation Enhancements (TE). This program is the first Federal initiative to focus on enhancing the travel experience and fostering the quality of life in American communities. USDOT/FHWA has put the TE program at the center of this thinking about transportation, growth, and livability.

(110th Street Design by Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer, Associates)



THE TE PROGRAM fosters more choices for travel by providing funding for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Communities use the program to revitalize local and regional economies by restoring historic buildings and renovating streetscapes. Many also use the program to acquire, restore, and preserve scenic or historic areas. As the number of TE projects rapidly approaches 10,000 it is clear that leaders, citizens, and local governments want a more enhanced transportation system focused on communities.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities
2. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Education Activities
3. Acquisition of Scenic or Historic Easements and Sites
4. Scenic or Historic Highway Programs, Including Tourist and Welcome Centers
5. Landscaping and Scenic Beautification
6. Historic Preservation
7. Rehabilitation and Operation of Historic Transportation Buildings, Structures, or Facilities
8. Preservation of Abandoned Railway Corridors
9. Control and Removal of Outdoor Advertising
10. Archaeological Planning and Research
11. Mitigation of Highway Runoff and Provision of Wildlife Undercrossings
12. Establishment of Transportation Museums

The basic Federal requirements for TE projects are that they be one of these twelve defined activities and be related to surface transportation. Each State can have additional eligibility requirements.



Tampa Union Station in Tampa Bay, FL has been restored to its original use as an active train station and vital transportation hub. (Photo: Florida DOT)

HOW MUCH MONEY \$\$\$ IS AVAILABLE?

Under ISTEA, Congress made \$2.8 billion in TE funds available to States through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). With the passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998, Congress reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing communities by providing an additional \$3.6 billion. Since 1991, more than \$2.4 billion has been invested around the country. Through 2003, the Federal government will provide at least \$620 million in TE funds to State transportation agencies each year. These funds are a 10% set aside of the Surface Transportation Program, which allows States to use highway funds for a wide variety of improvements including bicycle, pedestrian, and preservation projects.

WHO ADMINISTERS THIS PROGRAM?

To strengthen partnerships between State and regional agencies and increase the public role in transportation planning, Congress left the details of TE programs to the States. FHWA, the agency responsible for interpreting the law, has issued guidance on how States may implement TE. The Federal government has strongly encouraged State agencies to work closely with project sponsors – often local governments working with citizens’ groups who want to build TE projects.

Though the Federal statute describes eligible categories for the TE program with interpretive guidance from FHWA, State transportation agencies have most of the responsibility for the TE program. Each State devises its own application and selection process, establishes selection criteria, and adopts methods to streamline the development and management of projects. Transportation Enhancements coordinators administer the program at the State level, offering guidance on State-specific funding processes and project implementation.



The Bike-n-Ride project in Denver and Boulder helps commuters combine mass transportation with bicycling. (Photo: RTD)



Stevens Creek Trail in Mountainview, CA provides safe travel links between neighborhoods, jobs and schools. (Photo: Bob Weaver)

HOW DOES PROJECT FUNDING WORK?

Transportation Enhancements is a Federal-aid reimbursement program, not a grant program. The Federal government pays 80% of the project cost and, in general, the project sponsor pays the balance, also called the matching funds. Usually, the project sponsor pays the project costs and submits a reimbursement request to the State transportation agency, which submits it to FHWA. Under TEA-21, Congress allows innovative financing of TE projects, which are exceptions to standard Federal-aid requirements. These innovations serve as reminders that Federal-aid funding is becoming even more flexible for TE projects.

HOW DO I OBTAIN THIS FUNDING?

Each State has its own procedures to solicit and select Transportation Enhancements projects for funding. A project sponsor should develop the proposal sufficiently so that the project may move quickly into implementation after approval.

Each State program is different and applying for TE funds is a competitive process. Learn as much as possible about your State’s guidelines to effectively implement the project. Citizens must get involved to generate ideas and ensure the best use of these transportation funds. In all 50 States, the program relies on communities and local governments to propose projects that improve local quality of life.

TEA-21 encourages States to partner with Youth Corps in carrying out TE projects: here, corps members work on a trail. (Photo: California Conservation Corps)

