

- **Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Application Workshop**  
**2026-2028 Call for Projects**

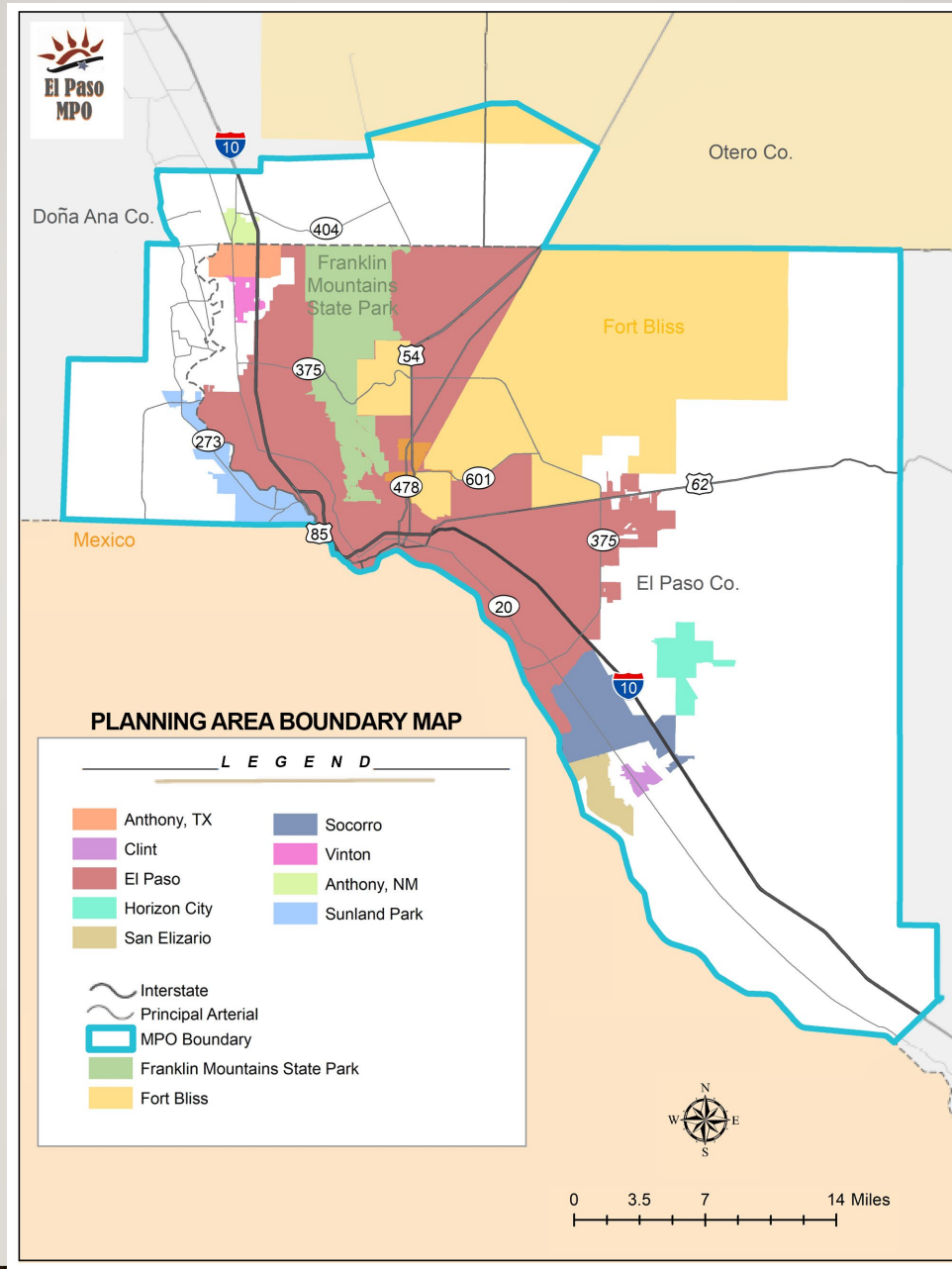


# WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

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- 2026-2028 TA Set-Aside Call for Projects
  - Guidelines
  - Scoring
  - Schedule
- Application overview
- Environmental checklist
- Budget worksheet

- Texas only





# WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET- ASIDE PROGRAM?

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The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program was authorized under Section 1109 of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law in 2021, extended and expanded funding for the TASA program. The TASA Program is similar to the former Transportation Alternatives Program, Transportation Enhancement, and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs.

# ENTITIES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

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- Local Governments
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- School Districts, Local Education Agencies, or Schools
- Tribal Governments
- Other local or regional government entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails.

# ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES AND ACTIVITIES

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## Facilities for Active Transportation Activities:

- Construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized 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 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).
- 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.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
- **\*NEW\*** Bikeshare infrastructure and equipment purchases

# ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES AND ACTIVITIES

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Facilities that Improve Safe Routes to School: Eligible projects include the construction of infrastructure-related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including:

- sidewalk improvements
- pedestrian and bicycle-related signalization/traffic control and signage
- traffic-calming and speed-reduction improvements
- pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
- on-street bicycle facilities
- off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- secure bicycle parking facilities
- traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- pedestrian lighting (safety)
- Promotional activities and/or SRTS non-infrastructure implementation activities related to education, encouragement, and enforcement



# TA SET-ASIDE FUNDING

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Approximately \$3,223,356 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and \$3,000,000 each in FYs 2027 and 2028 is anticipated to be available, and is subject to change, to fund eligible TA Set-Aside Program projects in the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Area for fiscal years 2026-2028. The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) of the El Paso Urbanized Transportation Study Area is responsible for selecting projects through a competitive process in consultation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The EPMPO Metropolitan Planning Area for this project call includes El Paso County, Texas only.



# LOCAL MATCH

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- 20% (minimum) local match.
- Local match must be cash \$\$\$.

# EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

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- The competitive process (Ad-Hoc Committee will evaluate and score projects).
- Recommended projects at public meetings, such as TPAC and TPB.
- TPB will make final selection of projects and funding allocations.
- EPMPO will notify all selected project nominating entities.
- TA Set-Aside Program funds are administered by TxDOT.

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

Category	Max. Points	Point Guidance	Description	Factors
Regional Network Connectivity	25	High: 25 Medium: 15 Low: 5 None: 0	Improves connectivity of regional paths and bikeways between cities and counties.	Improves connectivity of alternative transportation networks, including completing gaps between existing paths and extensions of the existing network.
Mobility	20	High: 20 Medium: 10 Low: 5 None: 0	Improves connections and access to transit.	Implements facilities (sidewalks, paths, on-street bikeways) providing first/last mile access to transit stations and stops.
Safety	15	High: 15 Medium: 10 Low: 5 None: 0	Improves safety and provides facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists with a high level of comfort and suitable for users of all ages and abilities.	Improves safety in documented high crash areas through safety countermeasures recommended by a safety report or study such as crossings, bicycle/pedestrian signalization, traffic calming, and separate facilities for various transportation modes.
Reducing Barriers	10	High: 10 Medium: 6 Low: 3 None: 0	Provides safe crossing of existing travel obstacles such as major roadways, interchanges, railroads, and bodies of water.	Provides grade-separated or other barrier crossing improvements with a high level of comfort and suitable users of all ages and abilities.
Congestion Reduction	10	High: 10 Medium: 6 Low: 3 None: 0	Provides alternative travel options in lieu of motor vehicle trips in areas with greater opportunity for walking and bicycling.	Implements projects in areas with high vehicle congestion areas identified in the Active Transportation System.  Implements projects in areas with a high density of short car trips.
Destination Density	5	High: 5 Medium: 3 None: 0	Provides access to areas with a high density of major employers and destinations.	Improves access to major destinations (schools, employment districts, major employers, high density residential, shopping, entertainment, and other special trip generators.)
Air Quality Benefits	5	High: 5 Medium: 3 Low: 1 None: 0	Improves air quality by supporting non-motorized facility usage.	Improves air quality based on the forecasted bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts resulting from the project.
Equity	5	Yes: 5 No: 0	Improves access to disadvantaged populations and underserved communities.	Improves access for areas with greater percentages of minorities and low income households compared to the regional average, and areas with a high density of zero car households.
Local Network Connectivity	5	Yes: 5 No: 0	Implements locally planned priorities.	Implements a locally-planned facility identified in an on-street bicycle/pedestrian plan, trails plan, SRTS plan, or other related community master plan adopted by the governing authority.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>			
Bonus Points Available				
Constructability and Feasibility	10	High: 10 Medium: 5 None: 0	Project readiness/ability to obligate funds without issues related to environmental review/RR/ROW/historic issues. Estimated costs seem reasonable.	Status on environmental/RR/ROW/historic issues  Consideration of potential issues that might delay the project
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>			



# SCHEDULE

Date	Application Activities
As needed	Application Workshop
August 16, 2024	Draft Applications due to EPMPO Staff
October 18, 2024	Call for Projects Closes. All final applications and supporting documents are due and must be submitted by 3:00 PM MDT.
October 25, 2024	Final Resolutions, easement or access agreements are due (if not already submitted) by 3:00 P.M. MDT.
November 2024	Ad Hoc Committee Review of Project Applications for Evaluation & Scoring for Transportation Project Advisory Committee (TPAC) Project Recommendations

# APPLICATION OVERVIEW

## Active Transportation Project Application

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2024-2025 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE  
PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS

### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION APPLICATION



Submitting Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications due: [October 21, 2022](#), by 3:00PM MDT

IMPORTANT: Federal FAST Act funds have very specific requirements for grants management along with detailed reporting. If you are unfamiliar with Federal regulations and grant requirements, or have not received federal funds administered by TxDOT in the past, please review the documents associated with this Call for Projects to determine if your agency is willing, and has the institutional capacity, to comply with the required terms and conditions.

# TITLE, NOMINATING ENTITY NAME, CONTACT INFO,

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

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- Purpose of the project (existing conditions, supplemental materials)
- Project scope of work
  - Identify the type of facilities for construction (sidewalks, crossings, path/trail, bike lanes, signage, etc.).
  - Identify any innovative treatments and technology to be included in the project design.
  - Project elements should be consistent with the itemized construction cost worksheet, those eligible elements will be funded.
  - Identify any Preliminary Engineering that you're seeking funding for.



# APPLICATION OVERVIEW

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## LOCATION/INFORMATION

- Map alignment or boundary
- Clearly identify segments/phases

## PROJECT READINESS

- Environmental Readiness checklist

## TIP FOR SAFETY AND BARRIERS

- Provide documentation of the issues and the recommended safety countermeasures.

## TIME ESTIMATE

- From start to finish, and approximate the time required for each activity.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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## Environmental Considerations 2024-2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Call for Projects

This is a tool to assist you and the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) in gauging your project readiness regarding environmental review. This form is not a substitute for a project level environmental analysis, but to determine those environmental issues that may greatly impact your project and its schedule. If you are unclear on particular questions or have several "unknowns" please contact the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Coordinator Blanca Serrano-Rivera at [Blanca.SerranoRivera@txdot.gov](mailto:Blanca.SerranoRivera@txdot.gov) or 915-790-4328, or Tim McDaniel at [timcdaniel@elpasompo.org](mailto:timcdaniel@elpasompo.org) or 915-212-0258.

### A. PARK LANDS

1. Is the project within designated park land or a recreational area?  Yes or  No
2. Was any of the property within the park or recreational area purchased using federal Land and Water Conservation Funds?  Yes or  No
3. Is the project adjacent to designated park land or recreational lands?  Yes or  No

Please Note: If the project is within designated park land boundaries, written approval will be required during the NEPA process indicating that the project is acceptable and consistent with the designated use of the property. Furthermore, it must be shown that due diligence was exercised to minimize harm to the location through project planning and design.

### B. HISTORIC PROPERTIES OR STRUCTURES

1. Is the project within a designated historic district or adjacent to a property or structure (e.g., building, bridge, cemetery) that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), State Antiquities Landmarks (SAL), and/or Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL)?  Yes or  No
2. Is the project within a designated historic district or adjacent to a property or structure (e.g., building, bridge, cemetery) that is eligible for listing on the NRHP and/or SAL?  Yes or  No
3. Has this project been coordinated with the Texas Historical Commission (THC)?  Yes or  No
4. Have you coordinated with your local historic preservation organization?  Yes or  No

### C. LAND USE

1. Will this project impact any cemeteries?  Yes or  No
2. Will this project utilize utility or railroad corridors?  Yes or  No

If yes, do you have a written agreement with the owner to use this corridor for your project?


Yes or  No

a. What is the status?



# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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- Identify any major issues that could delay environmental approval of the proposed project.
  - Required to follow the Federal environmental process (i.e., NEPA).
  - Review recent aerial/satellite photos, conduct a site visit, do research (available mapping and data).
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# BUDGET WORKSHEET

Complete itemized project activities and costs proposed to be reimbursed by Federal TA Set-Aside Program funds.

ATTACHMENT (G) - PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY (Active Transportation)  
ATTACHMENT (H) - PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY (Safe Routes to School)

Project Name

Project Budget Summary

Total Itemized Construction Costs	1	<input type="text"/>
Total Itemized Design Costs (not eligible for reimbursement):	2	<input type="text"/>
Subtotal of Expenses (Boxes 1 & 2):	3	<input type="text"/>
TxDOT Administrative Expenses (15% of Box 3):	4	<input type="text"/>
Total Project Cost:	5	<input type="text"/>

Local Match:  
 Local Match Percent of Total Project Cost (Box 5) 6

*The minimum local match percentage is 20%. Sponsors are not limited in their maximum local match. If awarded Federal funds, all cost overruns will be the responsibility of the project sponsor.*

Total Federal Funds Requested:  
 100% of Box 5 7

Instructions:  
On the "Budget Summary" worksheet, complete the orange cells for Project Name and Local Match Percent of Total Project Cost.  
On the "Itemized Construction Costs" and "Itemized Design Costs" worksheets, itemize all construction costs, and any design costs, proposed for this project. Only construction costs are eligible for reimbursement. The totals from these worksheets will automatically populate the appropriate lines in the "Budget Summary" worksheet. All yellow cells contain formulae to perform calculations.  
Once complete, print each worksheet in the workbook "Budget Summary", "Itemized Construction Costs", and "Itemized Design Costs" and attach to the Application form as Attachment (G) Project Budget Summary (Active Transportation) or Attachment H Project Budget Summary (Safe Routes to School).



# SUBMITTAL AND ATTACHMENTS

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- Complete the Checklist.
- One signed original Application (including attachments).
- 1 hard copy of the signed application (including attachments).
- One complete and signed EPMPO Project Request Form (PRF).
- One electronic copy of all files
- Submittals due before or on Friday, October 18, 2024, 3:00 PM MDT.



# CONTACT US

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- MPO Coordinator:

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