



Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Planning and Construction Funds in the French Broad River MPO Region (last updated December 9, 2013)

Application Process Managed by the FBRMPO

STP-DA Funds: Surface Transportation Program-Directly Attributable

- FHWA Surface Transportation Program funds allocated to Asheville Urbanized Area
- Approximately \$3 million/year available for FBRMPO region
- Local government members of FBRMPO can apply (cities and counties)
- 20% local match required; this is a reimbursement program
- Project type-very flexible: roadway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian capital projects eligible (transit operations not eligible); other projects including truck parking facilities, ITS capital improvements, environmental restoration and pollution abatement, advanced truck stop electrification, electric and natural gas vehicle charging infrastructure, ADA sidewalk modifications, etc.
- Covers planning, engineering and construction drawings as well as construction.
- Projects on rural minor collectors and local roads generally not eligible except for bike ped projects
- June 2014 submittal deadline for FY 2016/2017 funding; FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee to decide on competitive selection criteria
- Most recently funded projects include Hendersonville Road sidewalks (CST in 2014), New Leicester Highway sidewalks (CST in 2015) and Hendersonville Transit Center (CST in 2015)
- Additional info about the program eligibility at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/stp.cfm>

TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program)

- The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a set-aside of FHWA STP funds, similar to the program formerly known as TE (Transportation Enhancements)
- Geared towards bicycle and pedestrian projects, including Safe Routes to School and greenway projects; also eligible are projects for scenic lookouts, rehabilitation of historic transportation structures, community improvement and environmental mitigation; SRTS noninfrastructure, traffic education and enforcement activities; and planning or construction of boulevards in the right-of-way of former Interstate system routes or other divided highways
- Who can apply: local government members in the FBRMPO Planning Area including: cities and counties; other government entities such as regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, tribal governments or any other local or regional government entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible

- A portion of TA funds are allocation to Transportation Management Areas, i.e. to MPOs with over 200k in population; NCDOT to allocate the balance of funding through STI/STIP process
- FBRMPO will have \$283,000/year for FY 2013 and FY 2014 to allocate locally; call for projects will take place along with STP-DA, applications due in June 2014; FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee to decide on competitive selection criteria
- Additional info and eligibility details at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>

MPO Planning Funds Allocated through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Federal transportation planning funds, require a 20% local match
- Who can apply: local government members of FBRMPO (cities and counties)
- 20% local match required; this is a reimbursement program
- Can not be used for full Preliminary Engineering, although can touch on some engineering considerations as part of a feasibility study
- Can not be used for construction
- Competitive bidding required for most planning studies; funding amounts vary from \$10,000-\$250,000, with the \$30,000-\$35,000 range being most typical.
- Have been used for Ecusta Rail-Trail Study, Haywood Bicycle Plan, Waynesville S. Main Street Corridor Study, NC 251 Greenway Feasibility Study, Buncombe Greenways Master Plan, Asheville Multi-Modal Transportation Study, Weaverville Reems Creek Greenway Feasibility Study, Mills River NC 280 Complete Streets Corridor Study, Fletcher US 25-Heart of Fletcher Corridor Study.
- Currently not available for additional studies; more funds might become available in the future if the FBRMPO staff are not able to use a full year's budget allocation for ongoing planning activities
- Local non-profit groups can support a local government application by helping to raise the local match

NCDOT STI (SPOT) Process for Funding Projects in the STIP

- NCDOT will allocate federal TA dollars (approximately \$10 million/year) in the STIP—project selection will occur through the STI prioritization process also known as “SPOT”
- Local government members of FBRMPO can apply (cities and counties); members of RPOs can also apply through the RPO
- Local sponsors will need to submit their projects through MPOs, RPOs or NCDOT Divisions
- The state is no longer providing a local match for bicycle and pedestrian projects, local match of 20% required for CST and PE; ROW acquisition assumed to be the local sponsor responsibility
- Projects have to be identified on a local or regional adopted plan
- Prioritization process going on in 2013-2014 will result in project being funded in the 2016-2023 STIP
- Safe Routes to School projects eligible; however there is no a break-out category for SRTS under MAP-21 Federal Transportation Bill adopted in July of 2013; SRTS projects funded with TA will require a 20% local match

Application Process Managed by NCDOT

NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Program

- Federal transportation planning funds allocated through NCDOT
- Municipalities can apply for either a bicycle or a pedestrian planning grant; municipalities under 5,000 in population can apply for a combined bicycle/pedestrian plan

- Requires a 20-40% local match (depending on municipality size and the expected cost of the study)
- Greenway plans and county-wide plans not eligible
- Applications typically due in December (December 19, 2013)
- MPO/RPO letter of support required
- Match depends on size of municipality (typically 20-40%)
- Councils of Government and private consulting firms could bid to work on a bicycle or pedestrian planning study under this grant
- More info at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrant/Pages/default.aspx>

Application Process Managed by NC DENR, Division of Parks and Recreation

NC Recreational Trails Program

- 10% of Transportation Alternatives (TA) federal funds set-aside for Recreational Trails
- Managed by NC Division of Parks and Recreation
- All public agencies and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply
- For FY 2014-2015 funding, pre-application was due by November 15, 2013; applications due February 28, 2014
- 2014 RTP funding has been authorized at \$1.5 million, future funding for 2015 is pending federal reauthorization of the RTP program
- RTP requires a 25% match and is a reimbursement grant program.
- Funding amounts between \$10,000 and \$100,000
- Eligible project types include new trail/greenway construction; approved trail/greenway facilities; trail head/trail markers; purchase of tools to construct and/or renovate trail or greenway; land acquisition for trail purposes; planning, legal, environmental and permitting costs-up to 10% of grant amount
- http://www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_RTP_project.php

NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)



- This is a state grant program. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is funded with the excise tax on real estate transfers (37.5% of excise tax charged at \$2 per \$1,000 valuation goes into PARTF). The Parks and Recreation Authority was established to distribute the revenues. The board consists of nine members appointed by the governor, the Senate president pro tem and the House speaker.
- The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and/or development of park and recreational projects to serve the general public.
- North Carolina counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for PARTF grants. Public authorities are also eligible if they are authorized to acquire land or develop recreational facilities for the general public.
- Eligible project types include purchase of land to use as recreational projects for the public or to protect the natural or scenic resources of the property; also building or renovating recreational and support facilities. A project must be located on a single site.
- For 2013-2014 funding cycle, applications are due by January 31, 2014

- Maximum application of \$500,000, 50% local match required; the appraised value of land to be donated to the applicant can be used as part of the match. The value of in-kind services, such as volunteer work, cannot be used as part of the match.
 - More info at http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php
-

Private Funding Sources

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club

- Blue Ridge Bicycle Club is a regional bicycle riding club and advocacy organization (including Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson Counties)
- They sometimes allocate funding for small bicycle projects from planning to education and signage—typically from \$500 to \$5,000
- Contact: <http://blueridgebicycleclub.org/>

PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program

- Available to communities nationwide, up to \$10,000/per project
- Funding for no more than 50% of the project
- Non-profit organizations and local governments can apply
- The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program provides funding for important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives.
- Does not fund planning and feasibility studies, maps, or trailheads and kiosks
- Next application due April 14, 2014; typically 10-15% of applications received are funded
- More info at <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/grant-guidelines>

Alliance for Bicycling and Walking Advocacy Advance Grants

- Help for bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups to build capacity, non-profit groups can apply
- Not for capital/construction projects
- Typical grant size--\$10,000-\$25,000
- More info at <http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/memberservices/C528>

National Trails Fund/American Hiking Society Micro-grants

- Available to organizations nationwide; applications accepted from non-profit groups who are members of the Alliance of Hiking Organizations; non-profit fiscal agent accepted
- 2013 Call for Projects was due December 13th.
- \$500-5,000 grant amounts funded out of the National Trails Fund (made possible by private sponsors)
- Primarily geared towards hiking trails; multi-purpose human-powered trail uses are eligible; land acquisition and volunteer recruitment and support eligible
- More info at <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-fund/>