



## Transportation Enhancement Grants and the Arts

### Update

In July 2012, President Obama signed into law MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (P.L. 112-141). This act replaced SAFETEA-LU, the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 that included specific funds set-aside for the Transportation Enhancement program and its 12 authorized activities.

MAP-21 establishes the Transportation Alternatives program (TA) which replaces the funding of pre-MAP-21 programs, including Transportation Enhancements. Under this new program, the eligibility of some of the 12 previously authorized transit enhancement activities has changed. Tourist and welcome center facilities, landscaping and scenic beautification, and the establishment of transportation museums are no longer eligible activities under MAP-21.<sup>1</sup>

Although funds may no longer be used for the procurement of sculptures or other items not integral to the facility, art can be integrated into facility design and landscaping as a capital expense. Furthermore, the incidental costs of incorporating art into facilities and including an artist on a design team are still eligible expenses.<sup>2</sup>

There are now 10 eligible activities under the Transportation Alternatives program established by MAP-21.<sup>3</sup> These include:

- Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities
- Safe Routes for Non-Drivers
- Conversion of Abandoned Railway Corridors to Trails
- Scenic Turnouts and Overlooks
- Outdoor Advertising Management
- Historic Preservation & Rehab of Historic Transportation Facilities
- Vegetation Management
- Archaeological Activities
- Stormwater Mitigation
- Wildlife Management

Currently, to be eligible for TA funding, projects must be one of these 10 eligible activities and relate to surface transportation.

For more information regarding eligible activities, please visit the National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC) (formerly the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse) website: <http://www.ta-clearinghouse.info/index>.

Additional information regarding the Transportation Alternatives program and its eligible activities may be found on the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Highway Administration, "Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Guidance," <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Transportation Slides in MAP 21: Opportunities for the Arts in Transportation Presentation, July 9.

<sup>3</sup> NTAC, "The 10 Eligible TA Definitions," [http://www.ta-clearinghouse.info/10\\_definitions](http://www.ta-clearinghouse.info/10_definitions)

## **Appropriations**

TAP funds account for 2% of the funding appropriated for highway programs under MAP-21. Congress has authorized \$809 million in funds for FY 2013 and \$820 million in funds for FY 2014.<sup>4</sup>

## **How to Learn About Transportation Alternatives in Your State**

The National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC) website provides information on all 50 states and the District of Columbia and their TA programs. The website also has organized profiles from each state and a directory of TA contact information by state.

For more information regarding TA in your state, please visit: <http://www.ta-clearinghouse.info/stateprofile>.

## **Examples**

The following list provides updated examples of local public art projects that have received transportation enhancement funding from their communities.

## **Historic Preservation and Renovations**

- *Tecumseh Square Brick Street Restoration & Historic Lighting, Tecumseh, NB, 2011* – 45 historic replica lights and brick street improvement in the historic Tecumseh District.

**TE award: \$4,518,793; Matched funds: \$1,129,697; Total funds: \$5,648,490**

**Sources:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)  
[http://journalstar.com/news/local/city-gets-grants-for-sheridan-bridges-new-trail/article\\_c9638649-fcd6-54fb-84ca-9348107f05f3.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/city-gets-grants-for-sheridan-bridges-new-trail/article_c9638649-fcd6-54fb-84ca-9348107f05f3.html)

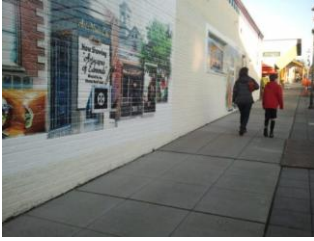
## **Landscape and Scenic Beautification**

- *SR 99 International District Enhancements/Main Street Decorative Lighting and Sidewalk Enhancement, Edmonds, WA, 2012* – Downtown Edmonds has utilized over \$1 million in Transportation Enhancement funds to make several improvements to the international district along SR 99, including incorporating artist-designed pedestrian lights, an artist-made sculptural gateway, and the project “Eight Luminaries” by artist Pam Beyette, which includes the design of eight lanterns lining the sidewalk, one of which will be a painted steel sculpture.

**Sources:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)  
<http://www.edmondswa.gov/summer/1506-decorative-lighting-and-sidewalk-enhancement-project.html>  
<http://www.edmondswa.gov/summer/1514-edmonds-international-enhancement-project.html>

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<sup>4</sup> Federal Highway Administration, “Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Guidance,” <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm>



- ***I-70 Beautification, Indianapolis, IN, 2009/2010*** – Urban planners and landscape architects led by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and the Indiana Department of Transportation re-designed two I-70 entrances, incorporating native grasses, flowering plants, and trees. Additionally, an artist was commissioned to create site-specific sculptures for the project. The first art installation occurred in January 2010. Now, more than 34 multi-colored forms may be seen from the interstate.

**TE award: \$1,000,000; Matched funds: \$1,000,000; Total funds: \$2,000,000**

**Sources:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)  
<http://www.agreenerwelcome.org/project>; <http://www.agreenerwelcome.org/art>



- ***Englewood Art District Streetscape Phase II, Independence, MO, 2011/2012*** – This project included a widening of the sidewalks, relocation of parking, improvement of transit bus stops and bicycle facilities, and corridor beautification with the intention of enhancing access to the art district.

**TE award: \$228,130.00; Matching Funds: \$76,043.00; Total Funds: \$304,173**

**Sources:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)  
<http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/Story.aspx?id=2409>



- ***Public Art, Athens, OH, 2011/2012*** – An artist was commissioned to create art work at the intersection of Richland Ave and SR 6812.

**TE funds: \$32,000; Matched funds: \$8,000; Total funds: \$40,000**

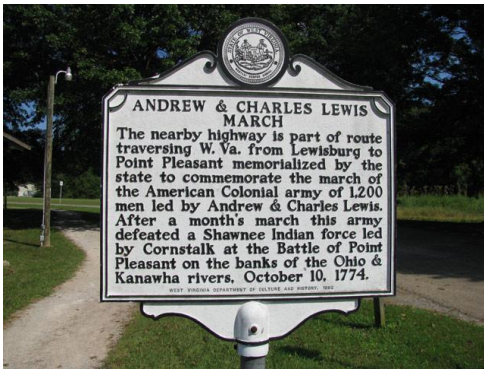
**Source:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)

### **Cultural Information**

- ***WV Historic Highways Markers, 2011*** – The creation and installation of 55 new highway markers (one per county) relating to the Civil War & WV Statehood. This is part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

**TE award: \$88,000; Matched funds: \$22,000; Total funds: \$100,000**

**Source:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)



### **Redevelopment/Streetscape (categorized under Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities)**

- ***Stockton Street Historic District Streetscape Infrastructure Project, Hightstown, NJ, 2010*** – Designed to restore the town's historic culture, market its small town pride, and re-establish Hightstown as a tourist destination to foster economic stimulus.

**TE award: \$1,689,122; Local funds: \$1,760; Total funds: \$1,689,122**

**Source:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)



- ***Ramsey House Transportation Museum, Knox County, TN, 2011*** – Construction of a transportation history museum as a component of the historic Ramsey House Plantation. Plans include the creation of a concert venue that could be rented for events, as well as public education programming.

**TE award: \$541,752; Matched funds: \$135,438; Total funds: \$677,190**

**Sources:** National Transportation Alternatives Clearinghouse (NTAC)  
<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/oct/22/historic-homes-ramsey-house/?print=1>



### **Establishment of Transportation Museums**

- ***Establish a Streetcar and Transit Museum, Tucson, AZ, 2009*** – Includes both indoor transit history exhibits and outdoor display of seven early transportation vehicles complementing the railroad focus of the existing Transportation Museum of the Tucson Train Depot. Targets installation of new exhibits by the projected start of the City of Tucson’s modern streetcar line in November 2011

**TE award: \$499,186**

**Source:** Transportation Enhancements in the PAG Region  
<http://www.pagnet.org/documents/TE/TransportationEnhancements.pdf>

