

# Montana Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program 2023 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Montana Department of Transportation invites eligible applicants to apply for Transportation Alternatives funding. Continue reading below for more information and important updates for 2023. Please read the ENTIRE document as there are changes for 2023.

## FUNDING AMOUNTS

Overall, there is \$30 million in Transportation Alternatives funding available. It is further broken down into the various categories shown below:

<b>2023 Montana Transportation Alternatives Program Funding</b>	
Capital Improvement (less than 5,000 pop. and All Areas)	\$10,223,776
Capital Improvement (5,000 - 50,000 pop.)	\$3,653,047
Pavement Preservation (less than 5,000 pop. and All Areas)	\$1,135,975
Pavement Preservation (5,000 - 50,000 pop.)	\$405,894
50,000 – 200,000 pop. Metropolitan Planning Organization Areas (MPOs)*	\$14,581,307
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>

<b>*MPO Funding Distribution</b>	
Billings MPO	\$6,388,406
Great Falls MPO	\$3,629,543
Missoula MPO	\$4,563,358
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,581,307</b>

## HOW TO APPLY

If your project is in one of the three (3) MPO areas which are Billings, Great Falls, or Missoula, then you will apply through those MPO's specific call for application process (more information below). If your project is not in one of the three MPO areas, then you will apply with the overall Statewide process administered by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).

[Billings Transportation Alternatives webpage](#)

[Missoula Transportation Alternatives webpage](#)

[Great Falls Transportation Alternatives webpage](#)

Montana Department of Transportation webpage – Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program and application process

There are two different applications for the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program – the Capital Improvement application (generally for new infrastructure and ADA upgrades/retrofit projects) and the Pavement Preservation application. There are corresponding instructions for both the Capital Improvement and Pavement Preservation applications. For the applications and instructions, see the links on the [MDT TA webpage](#).

## APPLICATION FUNDING LIMITS

### Statewide funding limits

**Capital Improvement - \$3,000,000**

**Pavement Preservation - \$600,000**

These are the limits for TA funding requests. By adding in matching funding and/or local additional funding, the total project size can exceed these limits.

Funding limits may be different for the MPOs Call for Application. See the MPO's website for the MPO funding limits.

## DEADLINE

Applications are due by Wednesday April 12, 2023 at 3:00 pm (MST).

## MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENTS

Most projects will require a 13.42% local match, however there are some exceptions. For projects within the boundaries of a Reservation, no match is required. These projects are eligible for 100% Federal Transportation Alternatives Funding. Certain Pavement Preservation or ADA upgrade/retrofit projects can qualify for 13.42% State match (instead of local match). For a project to qualify for State match (instead of local match) it must meet the following:

- 1.) Be located on an "on-system" route (MDT Route), within the right-of-way
- 2.) Be either a Pavement Preservation project that is preserving a facility that was originally constructed with Federal-aid funding (such as a previous Community Transportation Enhancements Program (CTEP) project) – OR – be an ADA upgrade project solely to bring an existing facility into ADA compliance, and the existing facility must have been originally constructed with Federal-aid funding (such as a previous Community Transportation Enhancements Program (CTEP) project).

All other projects will generally require a 13.42% cash match (no in-kind match is allowed). If your project is selected for funding, not all of the match is due up front. For example, the match for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase would be due upon execution of the project agreement; however, the match for the Construction (CN) and Construction Engineering (CE) phase wouldn't be due until approximately 60 days prior to the bid letting date.

## NEW FUNDING CATEGORY – 50,000 to 200,000 MPO POPULATION AREAS

As described above there is a new category of funding for population areas of 50,000 to 200,000. There are three (3) areas in Montana that receive this funding which are the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), which include Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula. These MPOs will be administering the application and scoring process for the funding dedicated to each of these areas. If your project is within the urban boundary of these areas, the applicant will need to apply for funding with the MPO that the project is located within. Applicants should NOT apply with MDT's application process for the overall statewide funding for the All Areas and 5,000 – 50,000 population funding. MDT is administering the application process for the funding categories for the All Areas and 5,000 to 50,000 population areas funding and each MPO is administering the application process for the funding specific to their MPO.

[Billings MPO Urban Boundary Map](#)

[Great Falls MPO Urban Boundary Map](#)

[Missoula MPO Urban Boundary Map](#)

The limits of the MPO are defined by the Urban Boundary as shown in light yellow in the above linked maps.

If your project is located outside of the urban boundary, then apply for funding with the Statewide application (Capital Improvement or Pavement Preservation). For assistance on which application to use (Statewide or MPO), contact Dave Holien, TA Program Manager at [dholien@mt.gov](mailto:dholien@mt.gov) or 406-444-6118.

## 2023 APPLICATION REIMBURSEMENT

MDT will provide a \$5,000 reimbursement for a complete application that is submitted prior to the deadline (exclusions apply). Below are the guidelines:

- The reimbursement is only available to:
  - Applicants with a population of less than 5,000 based on the 2010 Census
  - Applicants that are outside of an Urban Area listed here: [MDT Urban Maps | Montana Department of Transportation \(MDT\) \(mt.gov\)](#)
  - Applicants who are Tribal governments
- Applications must be submitted in good faith with a reasonable level of quality. If the application is of poor quality or incomplete, MDT will not reimburse costs.
- Applicants can only request reimbursement for one (1) application. Applicants can submit multiple applications to the TA program for consideration, but they can only receive reimbursement for one single application (not multiple).
- All costs must be Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) compliant. Unallowable costs will not be reimbursed. U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rates must be followed for any direct expense costs incurred.
- If the applicant spent less than \$5,000 on the application (for example, a local government hired an engineering firm and the total cost for the application was \$3,500), the applicant can only apply for the total cost and not the full \$5,000.
- A valid invoice (from a consultant) must be included in the reimbursement request. If costs are incurred directly by the local government, the reimbursement request must include detailed information supporting the charges. The following information must be included in all reimbursement requests:
  - Date range of services
  - Description of services provided
  - Breakdown of costs – labor hours (and overhead, direct costs, and profit, if applicable)
  - Profit is only allowable for consultant costs, not local government costs
  - Lump sum invoice/reimbursement requests will not be allowed, for example, a single line item for \$5,000. It will be required to show employee names, labor hours, labor rates, etc.
- The beginning of the date range of service must not be before the Federal-aid programming of the funding for which this reimbursement is paid from. This date is November 23, 2022. No charges before this date are allowable.
- Reimbursement request must be in a PDF format and emailed to [dholien@mt.gov](mailto:dholien@mt.gov) by no later than June 30, 2023. The reimbursement request must include a cover letter with the requested reimbursement amount, invoice attachments or other information relevant to the reimbursement request.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants to the TA Program include local governments, Tribal governments, school districts, resource agencies, non-profit organizations (though, non-profit organizations must partner with a local government). A full list of eligible applicants is available [here](#).

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible projects generally include pedestrian and bicycle related infrastructure for transportation such as sidewalks and shared-use paths. A full list of project eligible for Transportation Alternatives funding is available [here](#).