Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Writing Successful Grants
Welcome!

1. Grant Overview for Bike/Ped Projects
2. Success Stories
3. Tips and Strategies
4. Resources
5. Fund your bike/ped project
Overview of Bike/Ped Grants

• Federal & State Grant Funding

• Regional Programs

• Sustainable Jersey & Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant Programs
# State & Federal Grant Funding for Bike/Ped Projects

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<tr>
<th>State Funded Programs</th>
<th>Federal Funded Programs</th>
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<td>Municipal Aid</td>
<td>Local Lead</td>
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<td>Bikeways</td>
<td>Transportation Enhancements</td>
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<td>Safe Streets to Transit</td>
<td>Emergency Relief</td>
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<td>Transit Village</td>
<td>Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads</td>
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<td>County Aid</td>
<td>Safe Routes to School</td>
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<td>Local Aid Infrastructure</td>
<td>Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside</td>
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<td>Local Bridges Future Needs</td>
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<td>Local Freight Impact Fund</td>
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Program Goals
1. Where it’s safe, get kids including those with disabilities walking/bicycling.
2. Where it’s not safe, make it safe.
3. Encourage children to walk & bicycle to school encouraging a healthy, active lifestyle from an early age.

SRTS Grant Goals
• Increase walking & bicycling
• Improve safety
• Reduce traffic & fuel consumption
• Reduce air pollution
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grants

Who can apply?

• Municipalities and Counties
• School districts and schools
• One application only

What projects are eligible?

• Projects to encourage and enable children in grades K-8 to walk and bicycle to school
• Must be within 2 miles of a K-8 school
• Infrastructure projects only
• Construction only
• Design assistance is available for eligible communities
Projects can include installation of:

- ADA compliant sidewalks and crosswalks (day light)
- Signals
- On and off-road bicycle facilities
- Traffic Calming:
  - Lighted crosswalks, flashing crosswalk signs, permanent radar display, speed tables, raised crosswalks, raised intersections, bulb outs
- Pedestrian bridges to school
- Trails to schools

Not eligible:

- Education programs (TMAs)
- Projects that only serve high schools
- Projects that only serve to make drop-off and pick-up by car easier
- Crossing guard salaries
Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

What is TA Set-Aside?

• Community-based, local level projects
• Non-traditional surface transportation projects (land & water)
  – Expand travel choice
  – Strengthen local economy
  – Improve quality of life
  – Protect the environment
Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

Who can apply?

- Local Governments
- School districts or schools
- Some non-profits
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- Natural resource/public land agencies
- Tribal Governments
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than MPO or State Agency)
Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

7 Eligible Categories:

1. Design and construction of on-road and off-road trails for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users
2. Conversion and use of abandoned RR corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users
3. Construction of scenic turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas
4. Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

7 Eligible Categories (continued):

5. Community improvement activities (streetscaping, corridor landscaping).
6. Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control & water pollution prevention/abatement related to highway construction.
7. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or restore/maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
NJ Trails Program:

- Administered by NJDEP
- Develop and maintain recreation trails and facilities for non-motorized use.
- Program updates coming soon
- [nj.gov/dep/greenacres/trails/grants.html](http://nj.gov/dep/greenacres/trails/grants.html)
NJ DOT Grants for Bike/Ped

State Funding:

• **Municipal Aid** -- Pedestrian safety improvements, bikeways, and streetscapes

• **Transit Village** – Enhance walking, bicycling and transit ridership in area surrounding the transit facility. Municipalities must already be designated.
State Funding (continued):

- **Bikeways** -- New bike path mileage, support NJDOT goal of 1,000 miles of dedicated bikeways in NJ.

- **Safe Streets to Transit** – Safe and accessible pedestrian linkages to transit facilities to increase usage of transit by all.
Bike/Pedestrian Planning Assistance

• Since 1996, plans in 100+ towns
• On-call consultants
• Types of projects:
  Bicycle and pedestrian circulation studies, pedestrian safety assessments, trail feasibility studies, bikeway plans, crosswalk improvement plans, etc.
• For more information contact:
  Bill Riviere: William.Riviere@dot.nj.gov
NJ Transportation Infrastructure Bank

• Unique partnership between the NJ Infrastructure Bank (I-Bank) and NJDOT
• Low interest loans for local transportation infrastructure projects.
• Mission of reducing the cost of financing for NJ counties and municipalities.
• Available for capital projects (pedestrian walkways and bridges, etc.)
• Attend seminars throughout NJ - register online

njib.gov/njtib
Region-specific Programs

• NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program

• DVRPC Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI)

• DVRPC Regional Trails Program
### Funding by Phase

#### Planning
- NJ DOT Bike/Ped Planning Assistance
- NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance
- DVRPC Transportation and Community Development Initiative
- DVRPC Regional Trails Program

#### Design
- TA Set-Aside*
- Safe Routes to School*
- Bikeway Grant Program**
- Transit Village Program**
- Safe Streets to Transit**
- DVRPC Regional Trails Program

#### Construction
- TA Set-Aside
- Safe Routes to School
- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality
- Rec Trails Program
- Bikeway Grant Program
- Transit Village Program
- Safe Streets to Transit
- NJ Infrastructure Bank
- DVRPC Regional Trails Program

*Starting in 2016, NJ DOT offers design assistance to TASA and SRTS awardees
**All municipalities and counties may use up to 5% for design
What is Sustainable Jersey?

• Voluntary sustainability certification program for NJ municipalities and schools.
• Move toward sustainable future through completion of actions
• Provide access to grants and funding through sponsors (PSEG, Gardiner, NJEA, NJDOH, etc.)
• Sustainablejersey.com or sustainablejerseyschools.com
SJ Grants Awarded

- $2,000 green team grants
- $10,000 to $35,000 large grants
- Since 2009 over $5 million in grants to NJ schools and municipalities.
# Grant Cycle Timeline

## Municipal Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Announcement</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late Summer</td>
<td>End of October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-November</td>
<td>End of February</td>
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## School Program

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Announcement</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late Summer</td>
<td>End of October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early November</td>
<td>Beginning of February</td>
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Eligibility Requirements

- Register with Sustainable Jersey/Sustainable Jersey for Schools.
- Active Green Team
- Funds must be used to implement an action in the program.
### Municipal Actions
- Anti-Idling
- Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Audit
- Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan
- Complete & Green Streets for All
- Safe Routes to School

### School Actions
- Anti-Idling
- Safe Routes to School District Policy
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Promotion Initiatives
- School Travel Plan for Walking and Bicycling
Eligible Costs

- Staff salaries & stipends
- Consultant and contractor fees (including training)
- Equipment (bike racks, bike depot, helmets, etc.)
- Promotional items or program supplies (incentives, t-shirts, etc.)
- Educational materials (curriculum development, safety tip sheets)
Tips and Strategies for Grants

- Success Stories
- Tips for Grant Proposals
- NJDOT Grant Strategies & Tips
## SRTS Infrastructure Grant Successes
### May 2019 – NJTPA Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>Bike &amp; Ped. Route Thru Parks to School</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>Ped. Safety Around 7 schools</td>
<td>$1 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>Ped. Safety Around School &amp; Township</td>
<td>$1 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Bridge</td>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>Ped. Safety Downtown to School</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>Phase 2 Intersection safety</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asbury Park</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>Traffic Calming, Bike &amp; Ped. Safety Upgrades</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>SRTS Phase 1</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Branch</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>Prospect and John St. Sidewalks</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>Hubbard Ave. Sidewalks, Crosswalks &amp; Ped. Bridge</td>
<td>$1 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>Shunpike Rd. Sidewalk Replacement</td>
<td>$545,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Providence</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>Sidewalk Improvements</td>
<td>$430,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5.8 Million</strong></td>
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SRTS Infrastructure Grant Success Tips

• Work with your TMA SRTS team

• Go for Gold NJ SRTS Recognition

• Partnership between School District/BOE & Municipality

• Adopt Policies to Support Change: Complete Streets & SRTS

• School Travel Plan earns extra point and helps with application

Show You’re Serious about Bike & Pedestrian Safety
• Show Community Support
  - Conduct Stakeholders survey
  - Create a municipal Bike & Ped Safety Committee

• Conduct NJTPA Street Smart NJ Campaign w/TMA & Police

• Partner with health coalitions (MWC, NJHCN, Culture of Health)

• Include Bike & Ped Element in Master Plan

• Reimbursement Grant - propose realistic & affordable project phases

• Line up stakeholder support letters in advance

Show You’re Serious about Bike & Ped. Safety
**Projects must connect to K-8 schools:** Can also connect to parks, downtown or transit

- Westwood – path to connect County park & local park to avoid busy dangerous roads

**Show the need** (past crashes, # injuries/fatalities)

- Highlands – Commuters speeding to Ferry
- Newark – highest ped. crash rates and fatalities in NJ, did 6 audits/Travel Plan reports
- Middletown – road to school by River. Need safe ped. bridge and protection

**Work with Health Coalitions to improve safety and wellness**

- Asbury Park – 30% w/o cars, well lit, walk/bikeways to access food, school, healthcare
- Orange – Safety is issue, need more lighting, crosswalks, sidewalks
- Long Branch – no sidewalks leading to large school, Senior housing in area and no curb ramps, no sidewalks or crosswalks on busy roads
NJDOT Grant Application Strategies

- Pick the correct grant program for your project – scale, cost, etc.
- Review NJDOT grant handbooks online.
- Make sure your proposal meets grant criteria.
NJDOT Grant Application Strategies

• Be thorough. Ratings are based on the content of your application.
• Don’t assume raters know the project. Application must stand on its own.
• Include plenty of photos and maps identifying issues.
• Include all mandated information such as maintenance commitments, resolutions, letters of support, etc.

• Indicate construction readiness. Specify status of permits, right of way and utility relocations.

• Assess your ability to administer a federal-aid project and prepare accordingly.
EXTRA consideration for

✓ Towns with Complete Streets policies
✓ School Districts with supportive walk/bike to school policies (support Safe Routes to School)
✓ NJ Safe Routes to School Recognition Program (gold, silver and bronze level certified).
✓ School Travel Plans
NJDOT Grant Tips

Don’ts:

• Don’t take close up photos with no context.

• Don’t submit a completed project.

• Don’t propose a project on a county road without consulting the county.

• Don’t propose something that goes against current design standards.

• Don’t propose a sidewalk without accompanying safe street crossings.

• Don’t propose a project in a neighborhood where residents have protested against it.

• Don’t include staff and crossing guard salaries as they are not eligible.

• Don’t apply for a federal grant if the total cost of the project is less than $200K.
NJSafe Routes Resource Center
saferoutesnj.org/funding

Sustainable Jersey
sustainablejersey.com/grants-resources

NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center
njdotlocalaidrc.com
Have a bike/ped project to fund?
Contact Us!

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NJ Safe Routes Resource Center  
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EZ Ride  
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Shawn Megill Legendre  
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