Applying for Federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Funds



Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

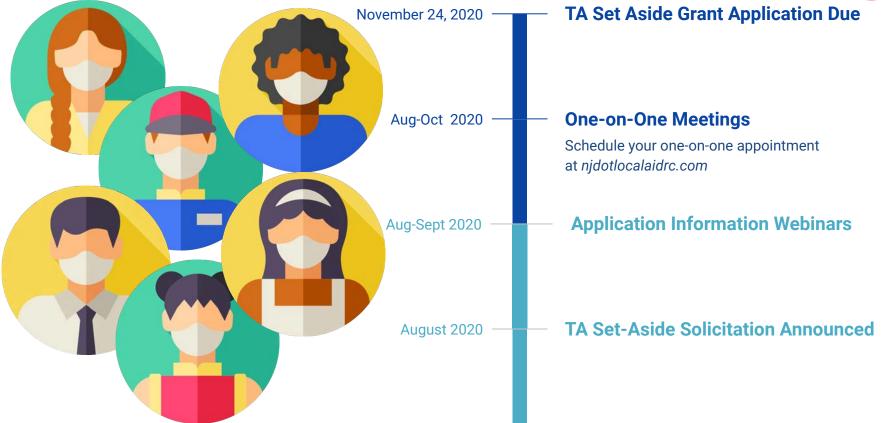






Welcome & Key Dates





AGENDA



Please Use Chat

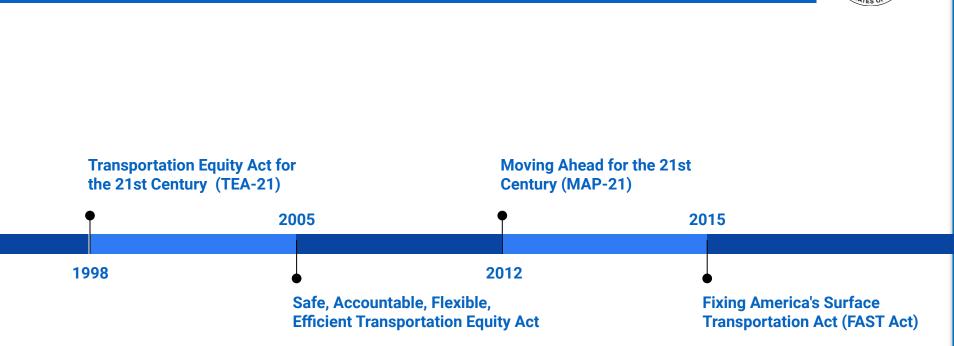
- Overview of Federal Aid Programs
- Overview of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program
- Review of the TA Set-Aside Application
- Q&A
- Grant Application Process
- Grant Resources, Tips & Strategies
- Q&A

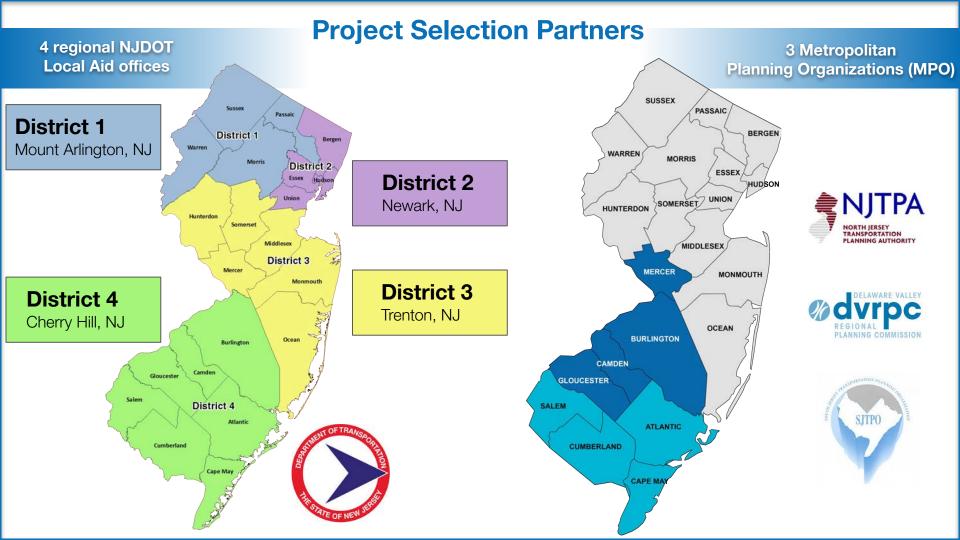
NJDOT Grant Funding Opportunities





Federal Transportation Bills





TA Set-Aside Grant Rounds

Year	# of Applications Submitted	Requested Amount	# of Grants Awarded	Programmed Amount
2016	133	\$100.9 M	37	\$26.1 M
2018	120	\$99.8 M	25	\$14.4 M

2020 Programmed Amount = **\$9.75 M**

TA Set-Aside Grant Application Deadline

Grant Applications due:

November 24, 2020 11:59 PM

What is TA Set-Aside?

- Community-based projects
- Transportation projects (land & water)
 - -Expands travel choice
 - -Strengthens local economy
 - -Improve quality of life
 - -Protect the environment





Who is eligible to apply?

- Local Governments
- School districts or schools
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- Tribal Governments
- Nonprofits (with construction expertise)
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than an MPO or State Agency)





What is an eligible project?

- Must relate to surface transportation
- Must be for a complete, identifiable and usable facility or activity (no partial projects that cannot usefully function on their own)
- Must meet the criteria for as least one out of 7 categories





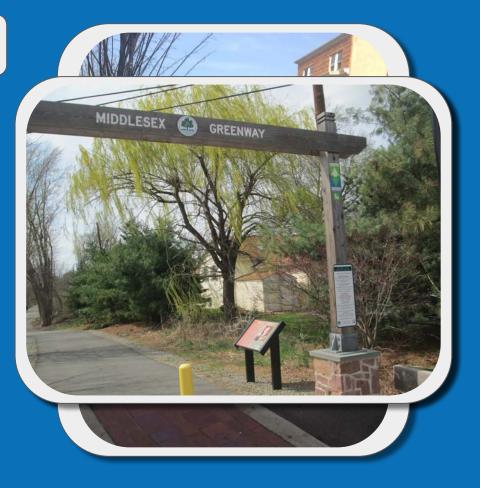
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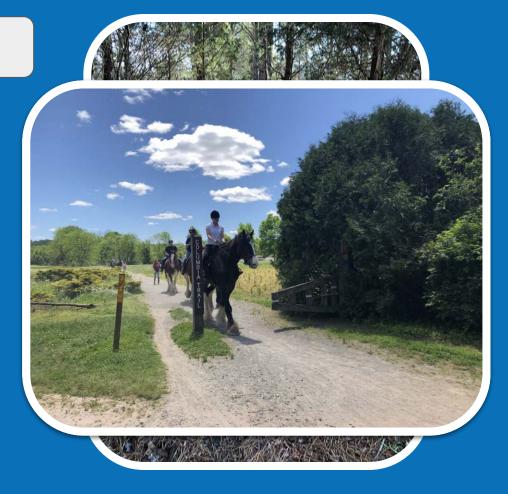


7 Eligible Categories

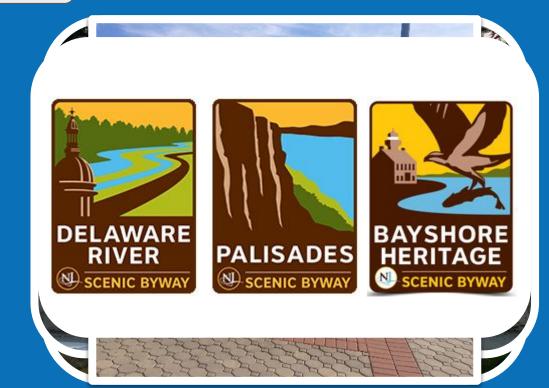
 Design and construction of on-road and off-road trails facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users (include length of the proposed facility in miles)



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



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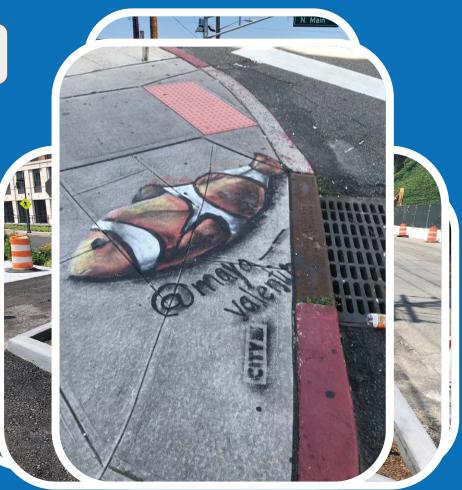
> WATERFRONT TRANSFORMATION The material base benefits and the same of the the material and the transformation and the same the organized by the transformation and the same and cores a cool parts for the workst these and the same the same of cores of the same of cores of the same of



5. Community improvement activities specifically streetscaping and corridor landscaping



6. Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, water pollution prevention or abatement due to highway runoff



7. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.





What are eligible costs?

- Design
- Right-of-way acquisition
- Construction

Identify Construction Inspection Services

Project costs NOT eligible for Funding

- Administrative costs
- Miscellaneous "contingencies"
- Utility facility relocation costs
- Uniformed traffic directors unless required by design



What is NOT included in TA Set-Aside?

NOT eligible under the FAST Act:

- 1. Pedestrian and bicycle safety and education programs
- 2. Acquisition of scenic or historic easements and sites
- 3. Scenic or historic highway programs including tourist and welcome centers
- 4. Establishment of transportation museums



Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program is NOT included in TA Set-Aside

Recreational Trails Program applications are accepted and managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)



Selection Criteria

25 Point Rating System

Extra points

- Adopted Complete Streets (or Complete & Green Streets) Policy
- Designated Transit Village
- Opportunity Zone and/or Designated Targeted Urban Municipalities (TUMS)

Project Considerations

- Construction-ready
- Addresses equity



Equity Considerations

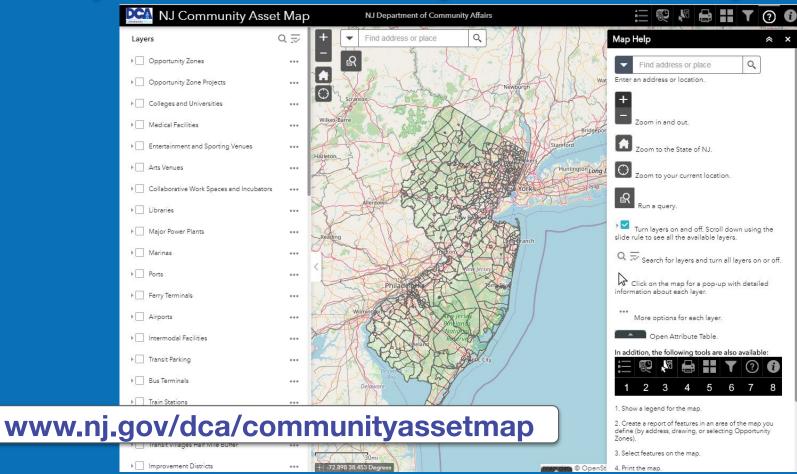
- Title VI of The Civil Rights Act
- Environmental Justice
- Limited English Proficiency
- Individuals with Disabilities

Census data

- Percent low-income
- Percent minority
- Less than high school education
- Linguistic isolation
- Individuals under ages 5 & Individuals under age 18
- Individuals over age 64
- Individuals with disabilities



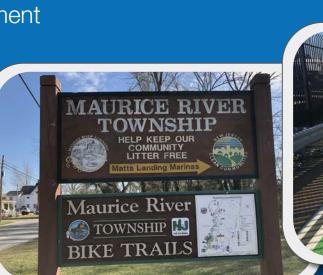
NJ Department of Community Affairs Community Asset Map



NJ Department of Community Affairs Community Asset Map

Selection Criteria

- Promotes & increases the use of non-motorized (active) transportation
- Enhances safety
- Benefits quality of life, public health, and the environment





Selection Criteria

- Part of a larger transportation, land use or economic development plan
- Provides economic and/or tourism benefits
- Enhances, preserves, or protects historical resources
- Urgency. Is it possible the resource could be lost?







System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE)

Welcome to the State of New Jersey System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE)

This is the State of New Jersey's grant management system. This system requires authorization for access. If you do not have a username and password please click the **New User** link to request access to the site.

NOTE: Counties and municipalities are already established SAGE user agencies.New user access is established by your agency's officials in <u>DCA SAGE</u>.

If your SAGE account is with a NJ municipal or county government agency, you should reset your password on the State <u>DCA SAGE</u> site.

Helpful Links

- Reset Your Password
- SAGE Help Desk and Support Services
- Search programs available through SAGE
- Request Access to SAGE
- Dept of State Applicant User Guide

NEW JERSEY

Portal Home

System for Administering Grants Electronically

System Login



TA Set-Aside Grant Application

If any of the following five requirements are **NOT** included, projects will be considered ineligible.



FIVE Program Requirements

- **1.** Resolutions/Letters of Support
- 2. Maintenance Commitment
- 3. Responsible Charge
- 4. Project must relate to surface transportation
- 5. Pick one of the 7 eligible activities

If any of the following five requirements are **NOT** included, projects will be considered ineligible.



1. Resolutions/Letters of Support

- Resolutions <u>must be signed and passed within</u> ONE year prior to the solicitation date.
- Must refer to the project
- Include letters of support from owner of public right-of-way (e.g. county).
- If project is on a state road, contact the NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs at *BIKEPED@dot.nj.gov*

If any of the following five requirements are **NOT** included, projects will be considered ineligible.



2. Maintenance Commitment

- Applicant must certify continual ownership and maintenance of the project.
- If applicant does not have jurisdiction over the ROW, then signed letter/resolution must be provided from that party.
- Letter/resolution must be dated within ONE year prior to the solicitation date and signed.
- Letter must be addressed to the applicant.

Sample Grant Resolution and Maintenance Commitment



[Municipality of New Jersey]

Resolution #123-45678

April 1, 2014

"Support Submission of Application for New Jersey Department of Transportation [Safe Routes to School or Transportation Alternatives] Program"

<u>WHEREAS</u>, [municipality] is applying for funding to conduct [type of project] along the school route for [name of school] and [name of school, etc.] [or type of transportation alternatives project] within [municipality]; and

WHEREAS, the project will help to continue and improve the promotion and encouragement of pedestrian and bicycle access and safety for [school children, residents, commercial district, etc.]; and

WHEREAS, maintenance of the facility, once constructed, will be assumed by [municipality] with the exception of (1) local ordinances that places maintenance responsibility with each individual property owner, and (2) those crosswalks on State or County Highways;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of [municipality] that it hereby supports the submission of a grant application for the [Safe Routes to School Program or Transportation Alternatives Program] within the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation and authorizes the Mayor, Manager and the Municipal Clerk to execute any and all documents necessary and related to the submission of said grant application or grant agreement.



If any of the following five requirements are **NOT** included, projects will be considered ineligible.



3. Responsible Charge

- Provide name, title and employer of the person who will be in charge of the project
- Must be a full-time employee
- Cannot be a consultant
- Is responsible for following federal requirements and day-to-day operations

If any of the following five requirements are **NOT** included, projects will be considered ineligible.



- 4. Project must relate to surface transportation
 - Surface transportation includes both by land and water.
 - Transport by water encompasses features such as canals, docks, piers, connecting to ferry operations, etc.

If any of the following five requirements are **NOT** included, projects will be considered ineligible.



5. Project must be one of the 7 eligible activities

- 1. Design and construction of on-road and off-road trails facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users:
 - i. What group is facility meant to service -- pedestrians or bicyclists
 - ii. What is the length of the proposed facility in miles
- 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
- 5. Community improvement activities specifically streetscaping and corridor landscaping
- 6. Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, water pollution prevention or abatement due to highway runoff
- 7. Reduce vehicle –caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

TA Set-Aside Grant Application

Pick one of the 7 eligible activities - However, include other applicable categories in project narrative.

- 1. Design and construction of on-road and off-road trails facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized transportation users (include length of the proposed facility in miles)
- 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
- 5. Community improvement activities specifically streetscaping and corridor landscaping
- 6. Environmental mitigation to address stormwater management, control, water pollution prevention or abatement due to highway runoff
- 7. Reduce vehicle –caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

Type of improvement:

Infrastructure/Engineering		Popular Project Types		
	Bikeway	New bikeways, off-road bike paths, bike lanes, bike compatible roadways		
	Pedestrian Safety	Enhance pedestrian safety (new sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, traffic calming, pedestrian overpass)		
	Quality of Life	Beautification, environmental mitigation, economic development, historic preservation		

Project Information:

- Project Title (100 Characters)
- County
- Municipalities

Applicant (Local Public Agency) Information:

- Name, address, zip, phone, email address, Federal Tax ID,
- Contact Information for: Mayor, Clerk, Municipal Engineer, County Engineer, County Executive/Freeholder, Non-profit, Government Organization

Project Proposal (character limit includes spaces):

- Provide detailed description of project (up to 4,500 characters)
- Attach maps/plans/images of the location of the project (up to 10 files)
- Project Location (from/to)

Will the project affect user modes of transportation?(Y/N)

If yes, explain how it connects community or regional activity centers such as business, schools, employment, shopping, recreations, etc. and utilizes existing infrastructure to promote the use of non-automotive modes through new facilities or improvement of existing ones (up to 1000 characters).

Project Proposal (continued):

- Explain how the project supports community or regional benefits (quality of life, environment, links to other transportation modes, increases access to community centers) and visibility or impact on surrounding locations (1,500 characters)
- Explain if the project addresses safety and public health benefits (1,000 characters)
- Explain if the project is part of a state, regional or municipal transportation, land use or economic development plan (1,000 characters):
- Explain if the project is located in one of the following designated areas: Complete Streets, Transit Villages, Targeted Urban Municipalities (TUMS) and/or Opportunity Zones? (1,000 characters).

Project Proposal (continued):

- Explain if the project provides value as a Environmental Mitigation or Enhancement (1,000 characters)
- Explain if the project will be taking any ROW or easements from environmentally sensitive parcels (1,000 characters)
- Explain if the project is requires environmental permits or approvals (1,000 characters):
- Explain if the project has any supplemental funds (1,000 characters).

Schedule:

Attach a project schedule from start to finish in a table or list.

- Indicate progress milestones:
 - Easement acquisitions
 - ROW permits
 - Utility relocation
 - Environmental and historical preservation approvals
 - Bid
 - Advertise
 - Award
 - Start of construction
- Indicate by number of months from written authorization through project completion and evaluation of results

Schedule:

- Indicate who will maintain the facility.
- Does the project require utility relocation? (Y/N)
 If yes, please explain (500 characters)
- Are permits required? (Y/N)
 If yes, please explain (500 characters)
- Is the purchase of right-of-way required for construction? (Y/N)
 If yes, please explain (500 characters)
- Does the project intersect a state highway? (Y/N)
 - ✓ If yes, indicate which highway(s)
 - If yes, is the intersection signalized? (Y/N)

Schedule (continued):

- Is there a railroad crossing or highway ramp within the project limits? (Y/N)
 If yes, please explain (500 characters)
- Will the construction impact traffic at a railroad crossing outside of the project limits? (Y/N)

Cost Estimate:

- Identify the phase of work for the project (*check all that apply*):
 ✓ Design
 - ✓ Right of Way
 - Construction
- If **Construction**, attach detailed cost estimate:
 - ✓ Materials costs
 - Tasks needed to complete project
 - ✓ Include FULL-TIME construction inspection cost
- If **Design**, provide design engineering cost.
- If Right of Way, provide cost.
- Total Project Cost
- Total Amount Requested



Partnership and Public Outreach:

• Attach up to **5 letters** of support community organizations, citizens, resident groups, and any and all interested parties.

All letters of support must be addressed to the applicant, NOT the NJ Department of Transportation and signed and dated within one year of the grant solicitation date.





Please Use Chat

Federal Grant Life Cycle

1	2	3	4	5
Pre-Award Stage	Award Stage	Authorization Stage	Implementation Stage	Closeout Stage
Submit Application by deadline. No exceptions.	Award Notification Set up kick-off meeting Discuss Optional Design Assistance	Receive written authorization to proceed & spend funds	Perform Grant Requirements & Submit Reports Request & receive payments	Grant closeout process

Authorization of Federal Aid Funds

- Costs incurred prior to agreement execution of funds are **NOT** eligible for reimbursement
- Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis
- NJDOT serves as the pass-through
 - Project must comply with applicable federal laws and regulations
 - Project must have adequate project delivery systems and internal financial controls to manage federal funds
 - NJDOT covers 20% match



Design Assistance Program

- Eligible for 2020 Grant Recipients
- Establishes pool of prequalified consultants
- Meets federal requirements
- Use of consultant pool is not mandatory, but encouraged

Benefits

- Shortens time and reduces costs
- Improves quality and performance
- Provides quicker review times
- Improves compliance with federal requirements



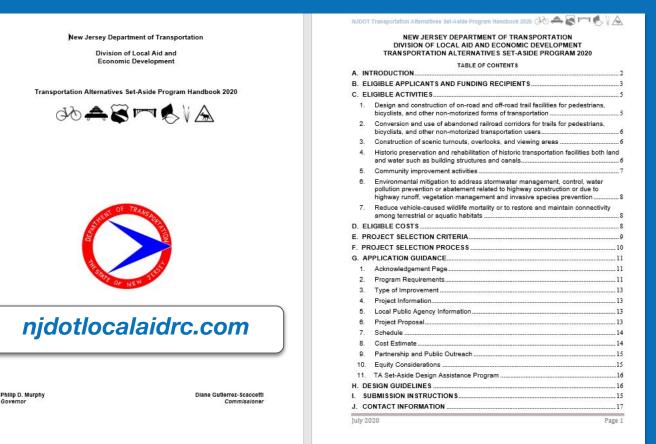
One-on-One Application Meetings

Goal: Provide direct assistance to applicants in developing better and stronger applications Meetings will be held from

August 12 - October 9, 2020

- Schedule a meeting through njdotlocalaidrc.com
- One-on-One Meeting with NDOT District Staff and MPO Representative
- Applicant must be a representative of the Local Public Agency NOT a consultant
- Meetings will be 45 minutes
- NOT a mandatory requirement

NJDOT 2020 TA Set-Aside Handbook



Grant Application Tips & Strategies

Include 5 application requirements

- **Signed and dated resolutions** must be provided by ALL affected parties (town council AND school board AND county if applicable)
- Include your maintenance commitment in your resolution
- Support Letters addressed to applicant NOT to NJDOT
- Responsible Charge must be a full-time employee. Cannot be a consultant, even if they serve as the engineer of record.
- Show you are **serious** about safety for walking & bicycling

Assess your organization's ability to administer a federal-aid project and prepare accordingly.

Grant Application Tips & Strategies

- Be thorough. Ratings are based on the content of the application.
- Don't assume raters know the project. Application must stand on its own.
- Provide clear project limits on map. NJDOT field checks locations.
- Indicate construction readiness status of permits, right-of-way, & utility relocations.
- Include all costs of the project, including construction inspection and indicate any additional funding sources. Ensure costs are current and comprehensive.



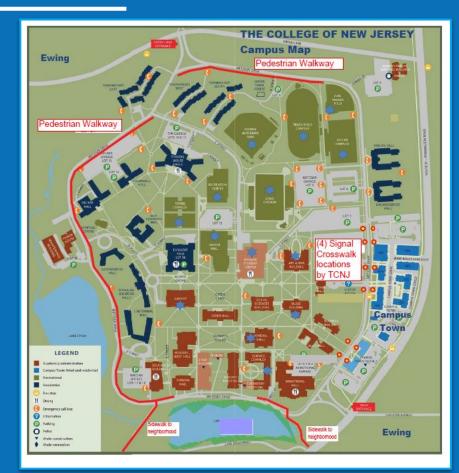
Grant Application Maps

Include maps that provide context, connections, & attractions

Maps should indicate:

- Project location within larger area
- Project limits (new construction)
- Attractions (bike, ped, historic landmarks, transit, etc.)

Maps don't have to be computer generated



Grant Application Photos

Include up to **10 photos** identifying issues

Photos should add scale & context

Do not take close up photos Use photos to tell your story



Grant Application Tips & Strategies

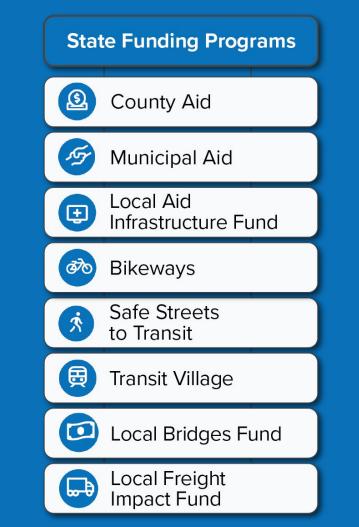
Don'ts

- 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 design standards. Project MUST comply with ADA
- Don't propose a sidewalk without accompanying safe street crossings
- Don't propose a project where residents have protested against it



Funding Opportunities

Extra point given to towns with a Complete Street policy



Funding Opportunities

NJ Transportation Infrastructure Bank

CONSTRUCTION LOAN PROGRAM INTEREST RATE

0.60%

07/01/2020 - 09/30/2020 on dollars drawn.

njib.gov/njtib

Bike/Pedestrian Planning Assistance

- Plans in over 100 towns
- On-call consultants for variety of projects:
 - bicycle and pedestrian circulation studies, pedestrian safety assessments, trail feasibility studies, bikeway plans, crosswalk improvement plans, etc.

For more information contact:

NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs at *BIKEPED@dot.nj.gov*



NJDOT Design Guides

- 1. Complete Streets Design Guide
- 2. Complete & Green Streets for All: Model Complete Streets Policy & Guide
- 3. School Zone Design Guide
- 4. School Bike Parking Guide
- 5. Planning for Greenways Guidebook



www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completestreets/resources

FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures





Suburban Areas



Medians and Pedestrian Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crossing Islands in Urban and



Road Diet



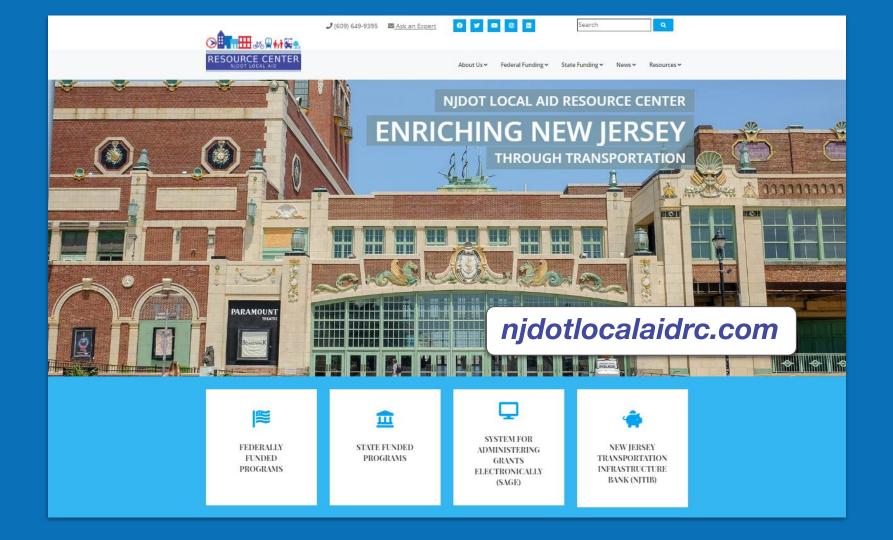


Walkways

Road Safety Audit

safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures





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Department of Transportation

Doing Business -Local Aid & Economic Development -NJDOT



Overview

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) International Roughness Index (IRI) Requirements

Local Aid paving projects on routes designated on the Interstate System and The National Highway System (NHS) must abide by national performance management measures for IRI and the requirements of the Special Provisions for State Aid Projects. Please see This Document summarizing the FHWA mandate on IRI testing on the Interstate System and the National Highway System.

FY 2021 Grant Solicitation – Municipal Aid, Bikeways, Safe Streets to Transit, Transit Village

The Division of Local Aid is currently accepting applications for Municipal Aid, Bikeways, Safe Streets to Transit, and Transit Village programs through SAGE. Municipal Aid, Bikeways, Safe Streets to Transit, Transit Village Programs Deadline: July 1, 2020

FY2021 State Aid Programs Solicitation Letter

www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid

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Grant Announcement . FY 2020 Bikeway

Grant Recipients for FY 2020 Bikeway Grant Announcement : FY 2020 Safe Street

New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid and Economic Development

District 1

Roxbury Corporate Center 200 Stierli Court Mount Arlington, NJ 07856 973.810.9120 FAX: 973-601-0049

District 4

1 Executive Campus Route 70 West, 3rd Floor Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856.414.8414 FAX: 856.486.6771



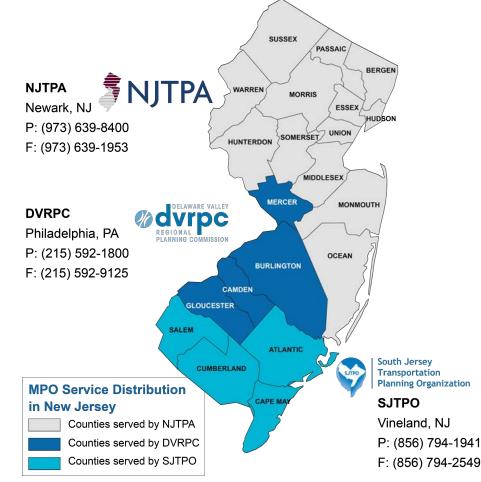
District 2

153 Halsey Street, 5th Floor Newark, NJ 07102 973.877.1500 FAX: 973.648.4547

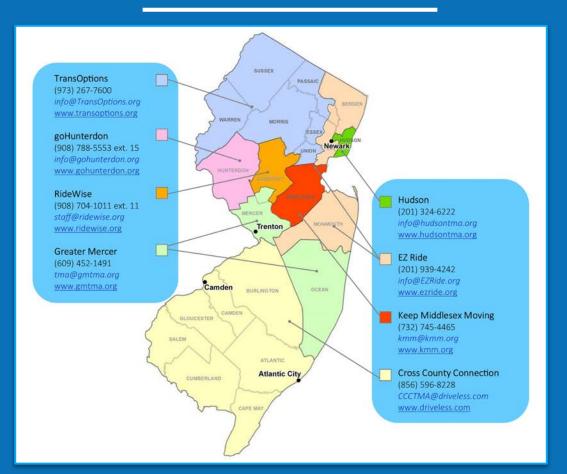
District 3

1035 Parkway Ave Trenton, NJ 08625 609.963.2020 FAX: 609.530.8044

New Jersey Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)



NJ Transportation Management Associations

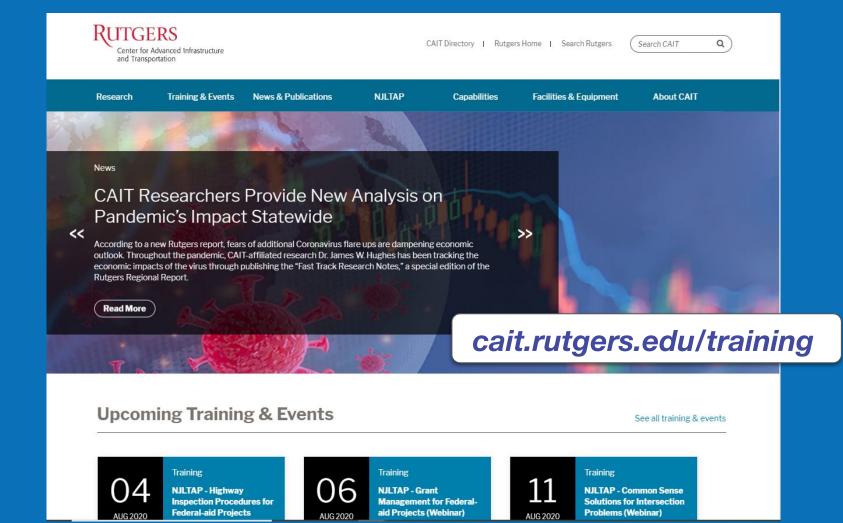


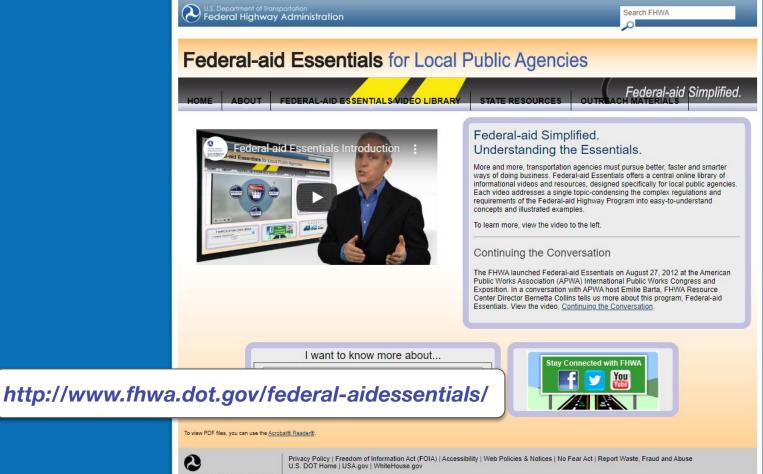
NJ Safe Routes Resource Center



The New Jersey Safe Routes Program, supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, is a statewide initiative with a mission to partner with schools and communities to prioritize and implement opportunities for people to walk, bike, or travel by other wheeled devices. By focusing on improvements to support active travel by youth, we believe we can create conditions that are safe, healthy, equitable, and appealing for all.

Safe Routes for All provides safe and equitable access to active transportation for people of all ages and abilities from all backgrounds and neighborhoods in New Jersey.





U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

Federal Highway Administration | 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE | Washington, DC 20590 | 202-366-4000

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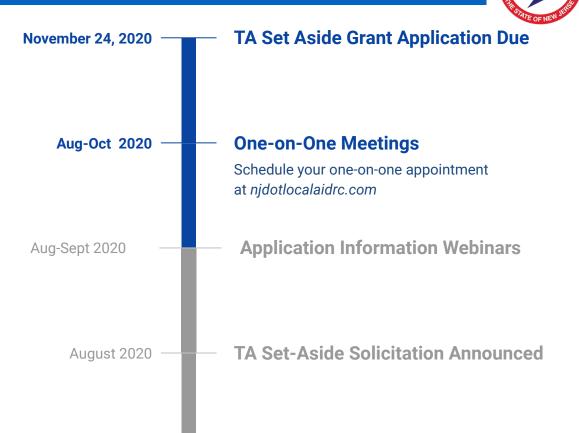
Webinar Dates

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 10am-11:30am Thursday, August 27, 2020 from 3pm-4:30pm Thursday, September 17, 2020 from 10am-11:30pm Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 3pm-4:30pm

Register at njdotlocalaidrc.com

Key Dates Recap







Please Use Chat

Thank you for attending!



NEW JERSEY Safe Routes to School



www.saferoutesnj.org

Contact:

NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center njdotlocalaidrc.com Telephone: (609) 649-9395 Email:DOT-LocalAID.ResourceCenter@dot.nj.gov **Contact:** NJ Safe Routes Resource Center **saferoutesnj.org** Telephone: (848) 932-7901 Email: srts@ejb.rutgers.edu

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