

Atlanta Regional Commission Transportation Alternatives Program

LETTER OF INTEREST FORM GUIDANCE

LETTER OF INTEREST FORM LINK

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=EleLCTbyEL8IYeCAiYe1qQ>

The following information is provided to assist applicants applying for the Atlanta Regional Commission's Transportation Alternatives Program funding. PDF forms are available in addition to the web link provided above. For additional information, please visit: www.atlantaregional.com/tap

AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

- Provide agency contact information

BASIC PROJECT OR PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Project Name* may be any concise, descriptive name of the project.
- Sponsor Agency* must be a Federally-eligible entity to receive TAP funds; see appendix A below for a list.
- Project ID* is a **self-generated** code used to help link form applications to mapped items. Use the following guidelines to generate your own Project ID, which will be needed for both the application as well as the mapping element (see appendix B):
 - For county jurisdiction applicants, use two-digit county code plus a unique two-digit number corresponding to application number (ex: DeKalb County – "DK-01").
 - For city jurisdictions, use the first three letters of your city name plus a unique two-digit number corresponding to application number (ex: City of Decatur – "DEC-01")
- Partner Agency* may be one or more entities who are affected by and support the implementation of the project.
- Brief Description Including Project/Program Location* should be a concise description of the project including the geographic extent or the anticipated project limits of the project.
- Funding Requested* – total funding for the TAP program anticipated to be available before the end of the state FY 2014 (June 30, 2014) is approximately \$14-15 million; the program will award a small number of regionally significant projects and does not have a minimum or maximum amount for project proposals; projects may potentially be awarded up to the total amount of the program.

- *Additional Funding Sources* – the TAP program will require at least 20% funding from local matches; for projects which cannot be fully implemented within FY 2014 using TAP funds, the proposal must detail which elements will be undertaken with those funds and outline a realistic financing plan for all remaining elements.
- *Project Phase* – the phase of the project requested for funding; all phases must be implemented within FY 2014.

MAP THE PROJECT/PROGRAM AREA

All project proposals are required to submit an online map illustrating the geographic extent and project limits of the proposed project. To access the interactive mapping site, follow the link below and use “**arcprojsolic**” for both the username and password when prompted.

To map a new project, click on the ‘edit’ button and select the appropriate geography on the left pane (e.g. lines, points or polygons). Click on the map to sketch your proposal. Assign the same self-generated **Project ID** used earlier within the *Basic Project or Program Information* section of the letter of interest form.

For help or questions about using the interactive mapping platform, please contact Patrick Bradshaw at pbradshaw@atlantaregional.com.

FOCUS AREAS: The Transportation Alternatives Program is intended to improve bicycle, pedestrian, and non-motorized transportation access, mobility, and safety with the Atlanta metropolitan region. The ARC has four key focus areas to achieve the program objectives:

- **Regional Trail Networks** – segments of shared-use paths that provide significant mobility or access within the region, complete a significant portion of trail network within the region, overcome major barriers to bicycle and pedestrian travel, or tie into regional transit services.
- **Safe Routes to Schools** – projects that provide safe and convenient access to elementary and middle school locations within the Atlanta region; projects that compliment education, outreach, and planning efforts at school sites.
- **Transit & Station Area Access** – projects that provide safe and convenient access to regional transit systems, including rail station, express or local bus routes, and first-mile and last-mile connectivity to the regional transit network.
- **Comprehensive Activity Center Strategy** – projects that provide comprehensive and substantial safety and accessibility improvements to a geographically-focused activity center or high-demand destination within the Atlanta metropolitan region.
- **Other** – other projects of significant scope or impact in the Atlanta region that provide safe and convenient access or mobility for bicycle, pedestrian, and non-motorized transportation users; elements may include any additional aspect of federally-eligible Transportation Alternatives project types.

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS:

- The Transportation Alternatives program provides funding with Federal fiscal years 2013-2014 (October 1, 2012-September 30, 2014); given the limited time frame of the program funds, all federally funded phases must be authorized by June 30, 2014.
- Indicate the field most representative of the project/program

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES:

- Given the wide range of geographical and demographic areas within the Atlanta metropolitan region, TAP funds will be prioritized for projects which have a broad, regional impact to improve bicycle, pedestrian, and non-motorized users' safety, convenience, and mobility.
- "Regional impact" will be considered based on the needs of the region and the merits of the project to improve safety or provide access or mobility, not necessarily the geographic extent or funding amount of the project.
- The following *Principles of Regional Impact* have been developed to establish regional significance:
 - **Needs Based** - Funded projects should have a scope and limits which are based on overall trip patterns, not necessarily limited by political boundaries or facility ownership; successful projects will address overall trip pattern needs in an area and impact multiple jurisdictions.
 - **Comprehensive** - The outcome of a successful proposal should be a corridor which is safe and convenient for all existing and potential active transportation modes (pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users), as well as automobile and freight traffic; a successful proposal will address mobility, access, and/or safety needs in a comprehensive manner.
 - **Collaborative** – successful proposals should include all public agencies and relevant stakeholder groups which can directly contribute to achieving the desired outcomes along the corridor; a successful proposal will demonstrate which partner agencies/organizations will need to be involved in delivering the project/program and what steps have been (and are currently being) taken to assemble these entities.

PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

- Given the need to implement TAP projects in a timely and efficient manner, priority will be given to projects/programs that are included in a locally adopted plan (such as a CTP, LCI, etc).
- Proposals should include information about a plan that documents the need and purpose of this project as well as provide a link where the document can be found, including all applicable page/section numbers.

For general TAP questions or comments, please visit the Atlanta Regional Commission's TAP page at www.atlantaergional.com/tap or contact Byron Rushing, brushing@atlantaregional.com

APPENDIX A: Federally Eligible Agency Types

Federally-eligible entities for TAP funding:

- Local governments (cities and counties)
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- Natural resource / public land agencies
- School districts
- Tribal governments
- Other entities for trails as determined by state

Non-eligible entities for TAP funding:

- State agencies (including DOTs)
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Non-profits (groups may partner with eligible entities)

APPENDIX B: Project ID Generation & Atlanta Regional County Codes

For city jurisdictions, use the first three letters of your city name plus a unique two-digit number corresponding with the number of applications submitted by your jurisdiction

- Examples:
 - City of Decatur (first project submitted) "DEC-01"
 - City of Chamblee (third project submitted) "CHA-03"

For county jurisdiction applicants, use two-digit county code plus a unique two-digit number

- Example
 - DeKalb County - "DK-01"

Jurisdiction	Abbreviation
Barrow County	BA
Bartow County	BT
Cherokee County	CH
City of Atlanta	AT
Clayton County	CL
Cobb County	CO
Coweta County	CW
DeKalb County	DK
Douglas County	DO
Fayette County	FA
Forsyth County	FT

Jurisdiction	Abbreviation
Fulton County (North)	FN
Fulton County (South)	FS
Gwinnett County	GW
Henry County	HE
MARTA	M
Newton County	NE
Paulding County	PA
Rockdale County	RO
Spalding County	SP
Walton County	WA