



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2022

Transportation Alternatives (TA)

Set-Aside Program

Call For Projects

Workshop

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

- ABOUT LWCAMPO
- ABOUT THE TA SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

CALL FOR PROJECTS

- GUIDELINES AND TIMELINE

TA SET-ASIDE APPLICATION

- APPLICATION GUIDANCE & SUBMITTAL PROCESS

TXDOT PROJECT INITIATION



ABOUT LWCAMPO

**Laredo-Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
(known as MPO).**

Mission:

To set transportation related policy, identify existing and future local transportation needs in cooperation with TxDOT, and propose and recommend projects for all modes of transportation including mass transit and active transportation, with special attention to freight.



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ABOUT THE TA SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

- In urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) provides funds that are distributed to MPOs.
- TA Set-Aside Funds can be used for projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, construction of turnouts, safe routes to school, streetscaping, and vulnerable road user safety assessments/traffic calming techniques.
- MPOs are required to develop a competitive process for selecting of these projects through a Call for Projects.
- Application Guidelines



CALL FOR PROJECTS GUIDELINES

[HTTP://WWW.LAREDOMPO.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/09/FINAL_2022-CALL-FOR-PROJECTS-TASA-GUIDELINES-1.PDF](http://www.laredompo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FINAL_2022-CALL-FOR-PROJECTS-TASA-GUIDELINES-1.pdf)

- A. OVERVIEW**
- B. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**
- C. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**
- D. FUNDING AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS**
- E. PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**
- F. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**



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A. OVERVIEW

- **The TA Set-Aside funds provide resources that can help achieve Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) policy objective for the repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, replacement, and maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure, especially the incorporation of safety, accessibility, and/or connectivity, multimodal, and resilience features.**
- **These guidelines provide information on the TA Set-Aside Program and, the provisions and requirements for the use of Federal-aid highway funds, project selection processes, and eligible activities.**



B. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- 1. A local government;**
- 2. A regional transportation authority;**
- 3. A transit agency;**
- 4. A natural resource or public land agency;**
- 5. A school district, local education agency, or school;**
- 6. A tribal government;**
- 7. A nonprofit entity;**
- 8. Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails.**



C. ELIGIBLE PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES

1. **Transportation Alternatives**
2. **The Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**
3. **The Safe Route to School (SRTS) Program**
4. **Planning, designing, or constructing Boulevards**
5. **Ineligible Activities**
 - **MPO administrative purposes**
 - **Promotional activities**
 - **Routine maintenance and operations**
 - **General recreation and park facilities**



D. FUNDING AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- TA Set-Aside is not a grant.
Funds are provided on a cost reimbursement basis; 20% local match requirement (cash)
- TA Set-Aside funds are available for obligation for 3 years.
- Potential Funding Availability: **\$2,443,500**
 - Based on \$714,500 annual allocation for 2022-2024
 - \$300,000 carryover from previous years
- Funding Target: **\$1,000,000** (maximum award per project)
 - \$250,000 (20% match) \$1,000,000 (TA) = \$1,250,000 (Total Project Cost)



E. PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS

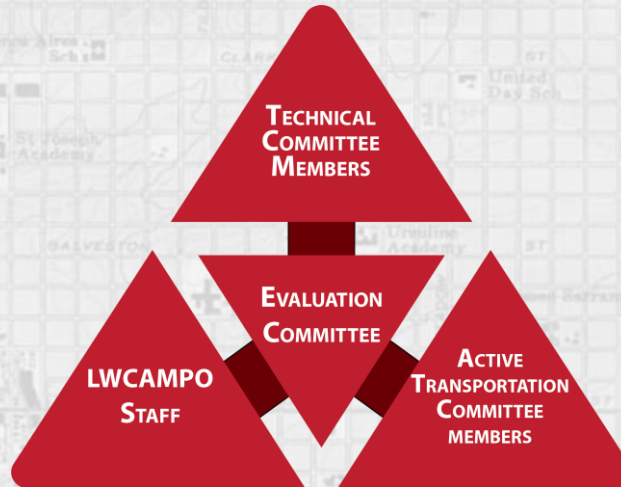
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Events	Target Dates
Present final draft guidelines to Active Transportation Committee	July 27, 2022 ✓
Present final draft guidelines to Technical Committee	August 9, 2022 ✓
Present final draft guidelines to Policy Committee and authorize Call for Projects	September 21, 2022 ✓
Hold 2 workshops for potential applicants (One virtual – One in person)	October 2022
Application deadline	November 18, 2022
Review applications	December 2022
Final selection by Policy Committee	January 2023



EVALUATION & SELECTION PROCESS

- Eligible entities may submit more than one project.
- MPO staff will review eligibility and application completeness.
- A subcommittee of MPO staff, Active Transportation, and Technical Committee members will evaluate projects and provide recommendation to Policy Committee for final selection.



TA SET-ASIDE PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS

EVALUATION
COMMITTEE

EVALUATE & SCORE EACH PROJECT

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO TECHNICAL & POLICY COMMITTEES



TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

REVIEWS RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL TO POLICY COMMITTEE



POLICY
COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS

APPROVES AWARD OF FUNDING



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EVALUATION CATEGORY & SCORING CRITERIA

Project evaluations applications submitted for this Call for Projects will be based on evaluation criteria, scoring points, and other factors as approved by the Laredo MPO Policy Committee and listed on the following table:



Evaluation Category	Scoring (Points)	Description	Factors
Enhancing Network Connectivity	20	Improves connections between neighborhoods, and community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network connectivity (gap closures, extension of facilities) • Facilities providing access to major destinations or bus stops, trails, sidewalks, on-street bicycle facilities. • Connects to existing facility on active transportation network.
Implementing an Existing Plan	15	<p>Improves ability to use walking and bicycling facilities for everyday activities including travel to work, school, and shopping</p> <p>Proposed project or facility list is recommended in the LWCAMPO Active Transportation Plan or Metropolitan Transportation Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements a planned facility in any local ON-Street Bicycle Facility Plan, Pedestrian Facility Plan, SRTS Plan, or the related community Master Plan adopted by the City or County Government Body (i.e. Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan, Active Transportation Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan)
Improving Safety	15	Provides safer and less intimidating facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving safety in areas with high numbers of crashes • Improving crossings, signalization, traffic calming • Provides separate facilities for various transportation modes
Project Readiness	15	Project readiness/ability to initiate construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated with TxDOT proposed "off-system" roadways • Status of stakeholder/community feedback and support • Status of engineering/design • Community partnership/support



Evaluation Category	Scoring (Points)	Description	Factors
Promoting Health	10	Improves access to physical fitness/wellness facilities, (e.g. bike/hike trails, medical plaza(s)/hospitals and/or clinics) Improves knowledge of facility locations, (e.g. way signs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes healthy activities • Provides access to health facilities
Reducing Barriers	10	Improves access and/or provides safe crossings for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nondrivers at an existing obstacle to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a grade-separated crossing under or over a barrier (e.g. water body, major roadways, railroads)
Creating Economic Development Opportunities	5	Provides access to major destinations, job centers, and large number of residents or employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to employment districts, schools, households, and other special generators • Provides direct connections to transit (shared use paths, sidewalks, and on street bikeways) • Provides access to job centers • Investment provides increased benefit to the community and the region through revitalization, redevelopment, and job creation
Providing Environmental Benefits	5	Helps reduce congestion and improves air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion and air quality benefits • Benefits and impacts to the environment
Serving Disadvantaged (EJ) Areas	5	Provides access in underserved communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves access for areas with greater percentages of minorities and low-income households compared to the planning area average
Total	100		



F. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Project improvements are limited to those described in the application and as approved by the Laredo MPO Policy Committee.
- Projects shall be developed following current standards and specifications established or recognized by the federal government and TxDOT.
- Project applicant/sponsor must enter into a local agreement known as an Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT, and shall comply with all federal and state procedures and requirements applicable to development of federal-aid transportation projects.
- Changes in items of work or project that occur without advance Policy Committee approval will not be reimbursed.




F. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Funding is limited to the amount awarded by the MPO Policy Committee, any project cost overruns shall be covered by the project sponsor.
- The construction contractor will, in all cases, be chosen through a competitive bidding process approved by TxDOT.
- The construction contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder.
- Entities applying must ensure that the project timeline reported is realistic.
- LWCAMPO and/or TxDOT may request periodic project status reports. Semi-annual reports to the MPO Policy Committee may be required after an entity enters into a project agreement with TxDOT.




APPLICATION PROCESS

http://www.laredompo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/TA-Application_p.1-16.pdf



**2022 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program
Project Application**



Project Title: _____

Submitting Agency: _____



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QUESTIONS



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