



Activity #6: Historic Preservation & Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Facilities

The federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funds 10 different types of transportation-related activities. Through the Historic preservation and rehabilitation activity, communities rehabilitate and restore transportation facilities significant to the history of transportation in America. These rehabilitated facilities help to educate the public and to give communities a unique sense of character that attracts tourists and generates a vibrant economic life. Since the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program began in 1992, approximately 17 percent of available TE/TA funds have been programmed for historic preservation and rehabilitation projects.

Eligible Projects

Working within Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines, each state Department of Transportation (DOT) determines the eligibility of TA projects for funding. Examples of projects that may be considered eligible include:

- Restoration and reuse of historic buildings with strong link to transportation history;
- Restoration and reuse of historic buildings for transportation related purposes;
- Interpretive displays at historic sites;
- Access improvements to historic sites and buildings;
- Restoration of railroad depots, bus stations, and lighthouses;
- Rehabilitation of rail trestles, tunnels, bridges, and canals.

TA funds may not be used for the sole purpose of replicating a historic building. Funds apportioned through MAP-21 (effective October 1, 2012) cannot be used for the operation of historic sites; these projects may still be eligible using funds apportioned in previous years through SAFETEA-LU.

Examples of Successful Projects



Union Station Tampa, Florida. In 1912, three railroad companies contributed to the building of one central rail station, Tampa's Union Station. The Italian Renaissance Revival style station was listed on the National Register in 1974. Feasibility studies determined that a renovated station could be a success if it was developed into a multi-modal transportation facility. Enhancements funds helped pay for the restoration of the building,

including new plumbing, wiring, and ADA codes and requirements. The renovated station has reestablished Amtrak service--which had originally operated in the station-- as well as bus, taxi, and trolley service. The TE funded restoration of Union Station has spurred redevelopment in surrounding areas, including plans for future Enhancements projects.



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Examples of Successful Projects

Rainbow Arch Bridge, Colorado. The Rainbow Arch Bridge in Fort Morgan is the only bridge of its kind in the state and one of the longest of its kind in the country. The remarkable bridge design includes 11 graceful arches that together stretch 1,100 feet over the South Platte River. A \$595,000 award helped save the aging bridge from collapse in the early 1990s. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction and serves as an entrance to Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways system. Contact: Fort Morgan Heritage Foundation, 970-867-7928.



Visit www.ta-clearinghouse.info/project_examples for additional project examples.

Federal Guidance

Projects that use TA funds must qualify as one or more of the 10 designated activities and be related to surface transportation in order to meet basic federal eligibility requirements. Important steps to consider when proceeding with a project in this category:

- Private sponsors should have a public co-sponsor to insure the continued responsibility on the part of the public agency for the project. Sponsors should plan for the future use and maintenance of the property in their proposal.
- A legal document developed in conjunction with the state FHWA division office should capture the protection of property rights for the use of a facility for a specific time period. The period of public access to the property should be commensurate with the expenditure of TE funds.
- Project sponsors should coordinate with appropriate historic agencies (e.g. State Historic Preservation Offices) to help assure that protective language is included in any agreement before the project is authorized for funding.
- If part of a facility is to be leased for a fee, federal funds should be used only for the portion of the facility that will be open to the public.

Visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guidetap.cfm> for a full copy of the FHWA



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Project Funding

Most states require TA project sponsors to provide at least 20 percent of project costs, also referred to as matching funds. In many states, the value of donated property, materials and services, the labor of state and local government employees and the costs of preliminary engineering may count towards the matching requirement. Federal, non-DOT funds can often be used as matching funds. Check with your state TA manager whether these innovative financing options are available in your state. Additional funds for this activity may come from state agencies, local governments, foundations, nonprofit organizations or other federal agencies.

Visit www.ta-clearinghouse.info/funding_sources for more suggestions on potential funding sources.

Related Resources

- FHWA Historic Preservation and Archaeology Program: <http://environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres>
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.nthp.org or 202-588-6000
- Historic Roads: www.historicroads.org
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: <http://www.achp.gov> or 202-606-8503
- To get in touch with your state historic preservation offices: http://grants.cr.nps.gov/Shpos/SHPO_Search.cfm

To Get Started

Inquiries about the TA application process should be directed to the TA manager at your state DOT. Visit www.ta-clearinghouse.info/contacts for TA manager contact information.