SIMPCO Services

POWER HALF HOUR

Rural Trail Planning & Funding

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Agenda

- Iowa DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) overview
- Iowa DNR Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program
- Trail planning services

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

TAP is a federally funded program administered by the **Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)** and **Regional Planning Affiliations (RPAs)**

Purpose: Supports community based transportation projects that improve safety, mobility, and quality of life.

Focus on non-motorized or active transportation infrastructure.

Benefits of TAP funding:

Improves Safety: Funds sidewalks, crossings, and bike paths that protect pedestrians and cyclists.

Supports Health & Mobility: Encourages walking and biking, promoting active lifestyles.

Connects Communities: Builds trails and paths that link neighborhoods, schools, parks, and downtowns.

Boosts Economic Development: Attractive, walkable areas can increase tourism, property values, and local business activity.

Success Stories

2019 **Moville** – Safe Routes to School Project, construction of a sidewalk along Fair Street and Jones Street.

2019 **Lawton** – The Lawton Hike/Bike Recreational Trail on the western edge of Lawton.

2024 **The Marcus Community Trail** – Trail connecting residential areas with public spaces, such as the school campus and city park facilities.

2027 **City of Le Mars** – Pedestrian Bridge Replacement.

Eligible applicants

- Local Governments: Cities, Counties, County Conservation Boards
- School districts (typically as co-applicants for infrastructure or Safe Routes to School programs)
- Transit Agencies
- Tribal Governments
- Regional Transportation Authorities
  - Such as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Planning Affiliations (RPAs)
- Nonprofit Organizations ***with Fulltime Employee***

** The project sponsor must register in the System for Award Management (SAM) and provide a Uniform Entity Identifier (UEI) to Iowa DOT.**

Eligible projects

- Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
- Safe Routes to School: Infrastructure and education
- Recreational trails
- Historic transportation preservation: Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Environmental mitigation: storm water, erosion control, vegetation management

Our Technical Committee and Policy Board only fund construction projects, they do not fund preliminary engineering, design, or right-of-way acquisition

Funding Details

TAP is a reimbursement grant

Typical funding amounts for the regional application: $200,000 annually

Matching requirements

The **required 20% match must come from nonfederal sources local or state grants, local funds, or private donations. In kind contributions and other federal funds are not eligible.**

Timeline for applications and awards

First year we have funds available: 2028

How to prepare & apply

Before application:

- concept development,
- community support,
- cost estimates
- contact SIMPCO

Application materials

We recommend attending SRTPA's Technical Committee and Policy Board meetings in March to help answer any questions during the application discussions.

Application Materials

TAP Application forms A-F

TAP Application form G (Checklist)

Checklist

IOWA | DOT

PART G – CHECKLIST AND CERTIFICATION

Before certifying the accuracy of this application, please review Section 5 of the program guidance to verify you have complied with all requirements for your application to be considered complete. The below is a list of minimum requirements to be submitted as part of a complete application for all TA Set-Aside programs; however, **applicants applying to a Regional TA Set-Aside program are encouraged to contact their local MPO or RPA for any additional requirements.**

- ☐ A. An **APPLICATION FORM** (in Word format) with all parts completed:
- ☐ B. A **DETAILED MAP** identifying the location of the project
- ☐ C. A **SKETCH PLAN** of the project, including cross section (construction projects only)
- ☐ D. **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS** (limit to five)
- ☐ E. An **ITEMIZED BREAKDOWN** of the total project costs
- ☐ F. An **OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT** of the project from the project sponsor
- ☐ G. A **LETTER OF SUPPORT** from the local byway organization board (if applicable)
- ☐ H. A **LETTER OF CONSENT TO SUBMIT** the application from the Iowa DOT District Engineer (if applicable)
- ☐ J. **FUNDING SOURCE DOCUMENTATION** for each funding source identified as secured by the applicant
- ☐ K. This **CERTIFICATION** (in PDF format) signed by an official authorized by the project sponsor
- ☐ L. A completed **MINORITY IMPACT STATEMENT** (in PDF format) as required by Iowa Code section 8.11

Iowa DNR REAP Funding

City Parks & Open Spaces

- State conservation and recreation funding program
- Established in 1989
- Supports parks, **trails**, conservation, and historic preservation
- Funded through gaming revenues and license plates
- *Can be used as match funding for TAP for trails*

SIMPCO Trail Planning Services

- SIMPCO can create trail plans or active transportation plans for our member communities.
  - Planning level mapping
  - Included in membership at no additional cost.

- Regional trail connection
  - SIMPCO can assist in coordinating discussions with the county and other stakeholders.

Thank you

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