South Carolina Association of Counties

Quality of Life
Grant Opportunities
for Counties

August 2, 2023

Local Government Services Office

SC Association of Counties Annual Conference

August 2, 2023

SCDOT's Local Government Services Office

- Established December 2021, the office consolidates various financial and administrative management activities associated with local governments under one roof.

- The following offices and program areas fall under the guidance of the Local Government Services Office:
  - "C" Program
  - Earmarks
  - Financial Participation Agreements
  - Grants (Internal and External Coordination)
  - Local Public Agency (LPA) Program
  - Scenic Byways
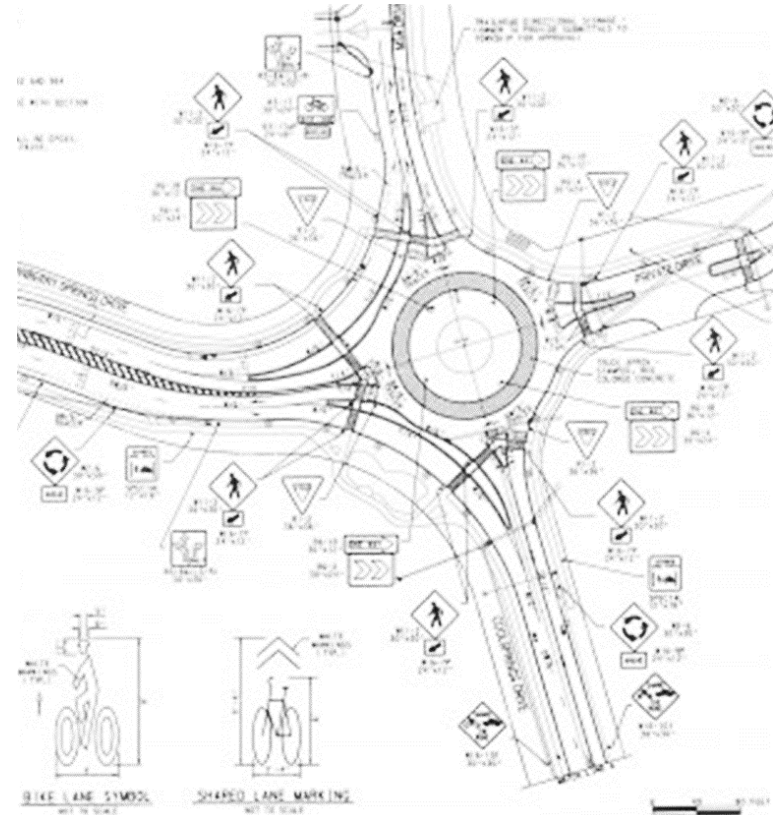 - Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

"C" Program

- The "C" Program is a partnership between SCDOT and the counties to fund local transportation projects, and improve state and county roads and city streets.

- County Transportation Committees (CTCs) (primarily appointed by legislative delegation) select and approve projects.

- "C" Funds come from 3.99 cents of the gas tax and one-time special appropriations from the General Assembly.

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"C" Program Project Eligibility

- Projects selected by CTC
- Transportation project
  - On public property
  - Accessible to the public
  - Resurfacing projects
  - Turn lanes
  - Engineer/Design work
  - Sidewalks
  - Lighting
  - Signage
    - Dedication
    - Speed Control

"C" Program

SCDOT's "C" Program Website
https://www.scdot.org/projects/c-program.aspx

Chad Rawls, P.E.,CPM
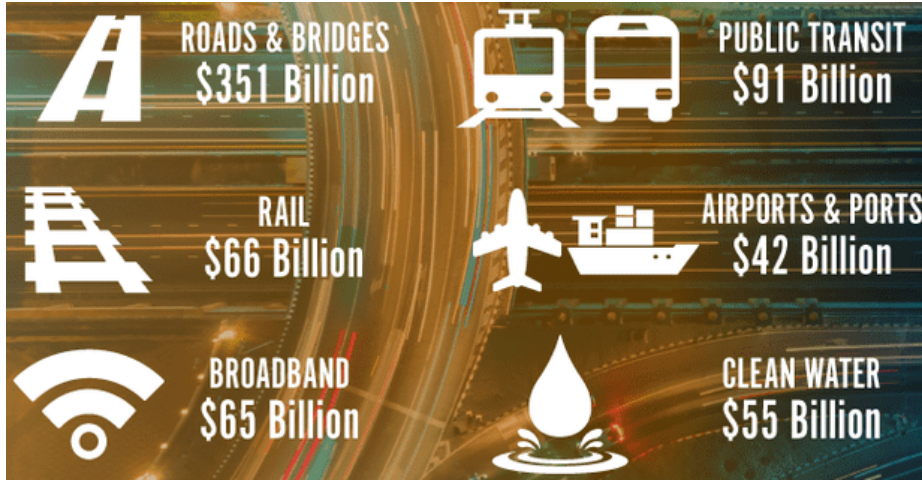Local Government Services Manager

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Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Discretionary Grant Opportunities

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Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

ROADS & BRIDGES $351 Billion

PUBLIC TRANSIT $91 Billion

RAIL $66 Billion

AIRPORTS & PORTS $42 Billion

BROADBAND $65 Billion

CLEAN WATER $55 Billion

- IIJA authorizes approximately $1.2T in surface transportation, rail, transit, water/sewer, and broadband.

- Discretionary grant programs are now available to eligible local entities in addition to states.

- LGS oversees IIJA grants activities by
  o Seeking and applying for grant opportunities on behalf of SCDOT, and
  o Coordinating with local entities submitting grants

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RAISE Grants
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity

- Congress has dedicated nearly $14.3 billion for fifteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

- The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs.

- RAISE can provide funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants.

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RAISE Grants

- 2023 Awarded Projects
  - Birmingham (AL) Civil Rights Crossroads: Reconnecting Historic Neighborhoods Through Active Mobility
  - Russellville (AR) Connected Trail System
  - PHX Cultural Corridor (Phoenix, AZ)
  - Newport (DE) River Trail
  - Oconee Heights Streetscape and Safety Improvements (Baldwin County, GA)
  - Kenosha County (WI) Bicycle Trail
  - Completing the Mississippi River Greenway (Dakota County, MN)

- SCDOT Involvement
  - Manning Avenue Bridge Replacement (Sumter, SC)
  - I-26 Noise Barrier (North Charleston, SC)

https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants

SS4A Grant Program
Safe Streets and Roads for All

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program, with $5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026.

- The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

- The fiscal year (FY) 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Safe Streets and Roads for All grants closed on July 10, 2023.
  - Planning and Demonstration Grant award decisions are expected to be announced in **October 2023**
  - Implementation Grant award decisions are expected to be announced in **December 2023**.

- The FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for SS4A is expected to open in Spring 2024.

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SS4A Grant Program

- 2022 Awarded Projects
  - Florence-Firestone for All: Achieving Vision Zero in South Los Angeles
    - raised crosswalks and medians
    - pedestrian refuge islands
    - sign improvements
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements to Improve Equity Countywide in Contra Costa County CA
    - enhancing bicycle and pedestrian signing and marking
    - installing loop detection upgrades for bicycles at traffic signals
    - ADA-comliant curb ramps
  - SS4A Implementation Grant to Advance Engineering and Construction of Providence, RI's Urban Trail Network
  - Safe and Equitable Access to Montgomery Parks
    - Safety of Trail Crossing
    - Educational Programs for Pedestrians and Cyclists

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A

How Will SCDOT Work with Locals Seeking Grants?

- Locals should be prepared to independently undertake the following items if they are pursuing grants:
  - Seek grant opportunities and prepare all grant applications in their entirety.
  - Enter into grant agreements with the relevant federal funding agency.
  - Manage all aspects of the project including PE, ROW, and construction.*
  - Assume all financial risk, including any overruns.
  - Enter into a maintenance agreement with any improvements above SCDOT's maintenance standard.

*To assist local governments, SCDOT is establishing a qualified list of On-Call consultants to provide local governments assistance with program management support for awarded grants. Usage of the list is <u>not</u> mandatory.

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GRANTS ACTIVITIES

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizes approximately $1.2T in funding surface transportation, rail, transit, water/sewer, and broadband, including $550B in new funding. It reauthorizes surface transportation authority until 2026, which is important for SCDOT's large multi-year projects like Carolina Crossroads (i.e., "Malfunction Junction"). IIJA also creates new programs for carbon reduction, resiliency, bridges, and electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

SCDOT-Sponsored Discretionary Grants

IIJA established numerous discretionary grant programs totaling approximately $100B for state and local governments. SCDOT intends to pursue grants that advance its priorities in the 10-Year Plan, including pavements, bridges, safety, and interstate capacity; we will not focus on grant opportunities that do not align with our priorities.

The Office of Local Government Services will oversee SCDOT's IIJA grants process, from seeking grant opportunities, to application development, to submittal. SCDOT is prepared to manage all awarded grants for which we apply.

Local Governments and Other Political Subdivisions Seeking Grants

What should local entities be prepared to do if seeking grants?

- Independently seek grant opportunities and prepare all grant applications in their entirety.
- Enter into grant agreements with the relevant federal funding agency.

What should local entities be prepared to do if seeking grants on the State Highway System?

If a local entity pursues a grant for a project on the State Highway System, it should provide notice to the Office of Local Government Services (IIJAGrants@scdot.org) at least 30 days before the grant application is due. The minimum required information is listed below.

SCDOT's IIJA Grants Resources

https://www.scdot.org/projects/Grants-Activities.aspx

IIJAGrants@scdot.org

SCDOT Grant Programs

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

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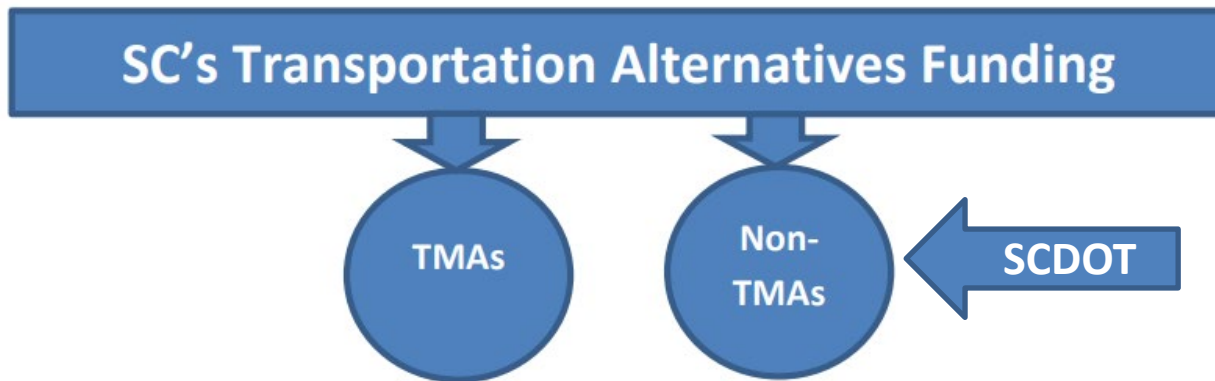
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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

What are *transportation alternatives*?

Think walking, biking….to get from one point to another

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

SC's Transportation Alternatives Funding

TMAs

Non-TMAs ← SCDOT

Transportation Management Area (TMA)	TMA Description	Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
ARTS	Augusta Regional Transportation Study	Augusta Planning & Development Department
CHATS	Charleston Area Transportation Study	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments
COATS	Columbia Area Transportation Study	Central Midlands Council of Governments
GPATS	Greenville – Pickens Transportation Study	Greenville County Planning Department
GSATS	Grand Strand Area Transportation Study	Waccamaw Regional Planning & Development Council
RFATS	Rock Hill – Fort Mill Area Transportation Study	Rock Hill - Fort Mill Transportation Study

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

SCDOT's Rural and Small Urban TA Program

Rural

Population less than 5,000

Small Urban

Population 5,000 – 49,999

Population 50,000 – 200,000

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

FFY 2023/24 Available TAP Funds by Sub-allocation

Area	Population	2024 TA Allocation Estimates
Rural	Less than 5,000	$10,000,000
Small Urban	5,000 to 49,999	$1,400,000
Small Urban	50,000 to 200,000	$5,900,000

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

Eligible TAP Applicants

- Local governments

- Schools/school districts

- Eligible entities within a TMA's boundaries
  (Entities <u>MUST FIRST</u> apply to the TMA for TAP funds)

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

Examples of Eligible TAP Activities

- Sidewalks/Multi-use Paths/Trails

- Bike Lanes

- Bike/Pedestrian crossing improvements

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

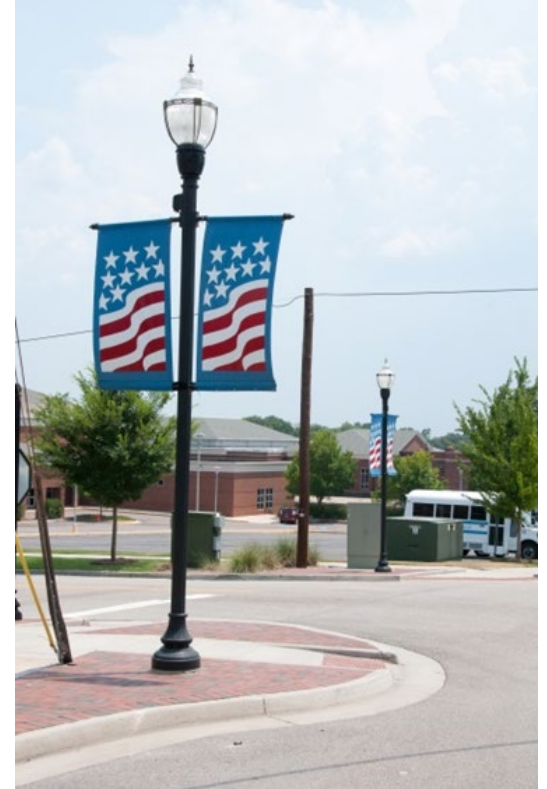## Examples of <u>Non</u>-Eligible Activities

- Recreational Multi-use Paths/Trails
  > *Purely recreational projects will be referred to SCPRT's Recreational Trails Program (RTP)*

- Routine maintenance and operations

- Property acquisition for parking lots

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

- TAP is a federal **reimbursement** grant program
  - 80% Federal

  - 20% Local Match*
    - Local Transportation Sales Tax, CTC, Property Taxes
    - Cash only - **No** in-kind matches
    - Must have match in hand before project can start

  *Exemptions may apply

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

- IIJA requires **prioritization of project location** and **impact in high-need areas**

SCDOT addresses this by using SC Department of Revenue's County Tiers…

TIER IV	TIER III	TIER II	TIER I
Allendale	Abbeville	Anderson	Aiken
Bamberg	Chesterfield	Calhoun	Beaufort
Barnwell	Clarendon	Dorchester	Berkeley
Cherokee	Colleton	Edgefield	Charleston
Chester	Darlington	Florence	Greenville
Dillon	Fairfield	Georgetown	Kershaw
Lee	Greenwood	Hampton	Lexington
Marion	Horry	Lancaster	Newberry
Marlboro	Jasper	Pickens	Oconee
Orangeburg	Laurens	Saluda	Richland
Union	McCormick	Spartanburg	York
Williamsburg	Sumter		

…and by awarding higher points to projects in Tiers III and IV counties, **and** potentially providing state match.

Project Location and Impact in High-Need Areas	The project is located in a Tier IV community. (12 points)	The project is located in a Tier III community (9 points).	The project is located in a Tier I or Tier II community. The project will provide economic and community benefits, including, but not limited to, access to	The project is located in a Tier I or Tier II community and does not provide beneficial community impacts. (0 points)
	The project will provide economic and community benefits, including,	The project will provide economic and community benefits, including,		

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

- **Phased Awards to Prevent Lapse**
  - Ex: $1M for design, ROW acquisition, construction
  - Phase I: $200k for design and ROW; Phase II: $800k construction

- **Minimum Project $500,000**
  ($400,000 TAP + $100,000 match)

- **No Project Cap**
  (But limited by TAP fund availability)

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Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

TENTATIVE FFY2023/24 Round Two TAP Schedule	
Issue Call for Letters of Intent	September
Deadline for Letters of Intent	October
Internal Project Scope Review	November
TAP Applications Sent to Qualified Applicants	December
TAP Applications Due	January
Internal / External Application Reviews	February
TAP Award Recommendations / Approvals	March
Issue of TAP Award Letters	March
Executed Financial Participation Agreements	June

- **Letters of Intent due in April and October**

- **Only 1 LOI per applicant per round**

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP)

SCDOT's TAP Website

https://www.scdot.org/projects/community-transportation-alternatives.aspx

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Questions?

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