

Transportation Alternatives/Recreational Trails Program 2026 WEST VIRGINIA PLANNING CONFERENCE



JUNE 2-4, 2026
MORGANTOWN



West Virginia
Division of Highways

Transportation Alternatives (TA)/ Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Eligible Projects :
 - A **reimbursable** program for non-traditional transportation projects.
 - Includes funding for design and construction.
 - On road and off-road trail facilities connecting two points for pedestrians, bicyclists and users of other nonmotorized.
 - Sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian & bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety related infrastructure.
 - Conversion of abandoned railroad corridors for trails.
 - Turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas, inventory, control or removal of outdoor advertising, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities and environmental mitigation activities.



Transportation Alternatives (TA)/ Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Eligible Projects:
 - Maintenance and/or restoration of existing trails.
 - Development and/or rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages.
 - Purchase and/or lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment.
 - Acquisition of easements or property for trails (willing seller only: Condemnation is prohibited).
 - Operation of education programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails.
 - Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility.
 - Construction of new trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands).



FFY 2025 Program Overview

60 TA applications requesting approximately ~\$25M Federal. (\$10.2M apportionment)

43 RTP applications requesting approximately \$~6M Federal. (\$1.2M apportionment)

- On-line competitive grant application process.
- Timelines - Grant cycle dates for opening and closing.
- Eligibility – check your eligibility (TA nonprofit entity - New: restrictions removed).
- Matching requirements – 80% Federal / 20% Sponsor Match.
 - Cash Match. Force Account. Local Volunteers , ex. Trail Groups - “In-Kind”.
 - WVDOH Contract Administration – Cash Match in advance and WVDOH will Bid/Let/Oversee the project.
 - FHWA-encourages the use of contracts and co-operative agreements with qualified Youth Service and Conservation Corps.
 - Sponsor advertised project (still must meet federal requirements).



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Transportation Alternatives (TA)/ Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- **FFY 2026 Grant Cycle
Opening Soon- June 2026**
- **Applicants Must Register**
 - Email with Press Release / Timeline Dates will be sent to those registered
- **Intent to Apply Opening**
 - Open: Summer 2026
 - Close: Two – Three-week period
- **Application Deadline**
 - Close: ~ 1.5 months



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Intent to apply is not currently open.





Applications are not currently open.





East Martin Street, Martinsburg



Cacapon Resort State Park



East Martin Street, Martinsburg

This is the online portal for West Virginia's Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails grant programs administered by WVDOH. The FAQ have been updated; users are advised to read the FAQ prior to submissions. **IMPORTANT!** For FFY 2023, all projects/phases will be 80% federal funds and 20% local funds. 100% funding is not available for FFY 2023.

View [detailed instructions here](#).

Download [sample application here](#).

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Contact us by [email](#) or call Mark Scoular at 304.414.6937 for more information.

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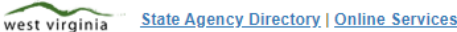
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Scoular, Robert

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Intent to apply is not currently open

Applications are not currently open

WVDOT Grants Application Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA)

▼

2. What is the Recreational Trails Program (RTP)?

▼

3. Who may apply?

▼

4. May an applicant apply for various phases of a project in one application cycle?

▼

5. What happens if federal money is spent and the project doesn't go to construction?

▼

6. How are the funds distributed throughout the state?

▼

7. How are the TA/RTP funds administered to the grant recipients during the project?

▼

8. Is there a way an application may be eligible for 100% federal funding?

▼

The logo for the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH). It is a yellow shield with a black border. Inside the shield, there is a black silhouette of the state of West Virginia. Above the shield, the text "WVDOH" is written in black. Below the shield, the text "DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS" is written in black.

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Application Tips

- Clearly defined scope of work, project description and termini;
- Environmental considerations, ex. permitting, archeology study
- Previous studies, reports;
- Map outlining work limits;
- Quality updated photographs;
- Previous studies, reports, etc.
- Detailed cost estimate;
- Right-of-way secured or, at minimum, considered;
- Letters of recommendation.



Less Competitive Applications

- “Sidewalks throughout Town”;
- Environmental considerations not accounted for;
- Utility relocation is major work item;
- Beautification only projects;
- Inadequate documentation;
- Insufficient funds being requested.



RTP Application Scoring

Recreational Trails Advisory Board Representatives

- Division of Natural Resources
- Department of Commerce
- Bicycle, outdoor enthusiasts
- Non-motorized and motorized representatives
- West Virginia DOT



Whispering Spruce Trail, Spruce Knob

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TA Application Scoring

- Diverse Scoring Committee
 - Base Scoring (100 points)
 - Accessibility and Mobility
 - Quality of Life/Health
 - Safety and Security
 - Economic Vitality
 - Partnership
- /Regional Significance



Whispering Spruce Trail, Spruce Knob

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Matching Funds

Cash Match

- Pay up front.
- Pay as you Go.

Force Account – City / County full time employees.

In-Kind

- Volunteer Labor.
- Donated materials.
- Some in-kind may be donated prior to project approval.
- New: Updated matching provisions – Federal funds etc.
- Youth Service and Conservation Corps.



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National Environmental Policy Act

- Section 106 of the NHPA
- Rare, Threatened, & Endangered Species
- Section 7 of the ESA
- Section 6(f) of the LWCF
- Floodplain Consultation
- Section 4(f) of the USDOTA
- Not ESA (Environmental Site Assessment)



TA and RTP Projects Through Contract Administration 2025-2026

- Greenbrier River Rail Trail (bridge redecking)
- Hinton Sidewalks
- Morgantown Airport Sidewalks
- Caperton Trail Lighting
- Romney Sidewalks
- Shepherdstown Path
- Wheeling Roebrecht Trailhead & Sidewalks
- Augustine Avenue Trail Phases I and II
- Parkersburg St. Marys/Dudley Avenue Sidewalks
- Athens Sidewalks
- Hawks Nest Rail Trail Trestle (bridge redecking)
- Salem Sidewalks
- Deckers Creek Trail- Cenforce Project



Eastern Federal Lands Access Program

- <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/flap/wv>
- Programming Decisions Committee
- Administered through WVDOT
- PS&E, UTL, R/W and NEPA
- Project Agreement with Sponsor
- Last cycle was 100% Federal funding
- Next call for projects FFYxxxx (TBD)



Eastern Federal Lands Access Program

West Virginia Program of Projects for Federal Fiscal Years 2023-2026

Application No.	Project/Facility Name	Project Type	Federal Land Accessed	Applicant	County	Fiscal Year*
WV 27	Allegheny Trail	Trail Rehabilitation	US Forest Service - Monongahela National Forest	Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corp.	Pocahontas	2023
WV 28	Ravenswood Riverfront Park	Kayak Launch	US Fish & Wildlife Service - Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge	City of Ravenswood	Jackson	2023
WV 29	Paul Ambrose Trail	Multi-Use Trail	US Army Corps of Engineers- Ohio River	City of Huntington	Cabell & Wayne	2023-2024
WV 30	Harpers Ferry Transit Fleet Electrification	Battery Electric Bus & Charging Dispenser	National Park Service- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority	Jefferson	2025
WV 31	Paw Paw-C&O Canal Bicycle Connectivity Study	Feasibility Study	National Park Service- C&O Canal National Historical Park	Town of Paw Paw	Morgan	2024

* Fiscal Year Programmed/Project Schedule is subject to change



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Eastern Federal Lands Access Program

West Virginia Program of Projects for Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2029

Application No.	Project/Facility Name	Project Type	Federal Land Accessed	Applicant	Fiscal Year*
WV 32	Gladwin Crossing	Bridge Engineering	US Forest Service- Monongahela National Forest	WVDOH	2027
WV 33	Summit Lake Road	Roadway Drainage Improvements	US Forest Service- Monongahela National Forest	WVDOH	2027
WV 35	High Street	Sidewalk Replacement	National Park Service- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	Harpers Ferry	2027
WV 39	Fayette-Raleigh Federal Lands Access Study	Transportation Study	National Park Service- New River Gorge National Park/Gauley River National Recreation Area/Bluestone National Scenic River	Fayette-Raleigh MPO	2027
WV 40	Meadow River Trail Extension	Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility Extension	National Park Service- New River Gorge National Park	Fayette County	2027

* Fiscal Year Programmed is based on the availability of funds/Project Schedule is subject to change



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Eastern Federal Lands Access Program

- Flowing Springs Trail
- Armory Canal at Harpers Ferry
- Paw Paw Connectivity Study
- Town of Bath Bicycle Connectivity Study (administered by FHWA-EFL)
- D8 Signage & Trail Project (Allegheny Trail)

Brian Chapman 304/414-6907



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Congressionally Directed Spending

- Projects through Transportation/Federal Highway Administration are to be administered by WVDOH.
 - Sponsor/Project Agreements.
 - PS&E, UTL, R/W and NEPA.
 - Predominantly through WVDOH Contract Administration.



Sponsors Reaching out to District

- If a District is contacted during the application cycle, or to discuss a sidewalk/non-traditional project:
 - Not looking for District to endorse project.
 - Any conflicts with traditional highway project?
 - Remind of DOH Standards/Specs.
 - DOH Contract Administration.
 - Right-of-Way/Drainage/ADA/NEPA.



Challenges Items that need considered through DOH Contract Administration.

- Projects designed with DOH standards/specs/bid items - are to be administered by WVDOH.
- 13% E&C for Sidewalk, 19% for pedestrian bridges (or take the 30% amount).
- Local Sponsors may want a little more involvement during construction.
 - Falls on Planning Division to communicate with Sponsor.
- But satisfying DOH-FHWA Stewardship Agreement & Federal-Aid construction requirements.



Moving Forward

- Pre-Construction Meeting- Planning Division Staff & Project Sponsor.
- Identify funding amount, including E&C.
- Change Orders. How much left of 4%?
 - Cut scope of project.
 - Coordinate with Project Sponsor re: additional funding.
- Matching Requirements..... Federal funds @ 100%.
- Post-design services agreement with design consultant. Especially true with vaults under sidewalks. Other- pedestrian bridge and/or lighting.



Moving Forward

- Projects Administered by Sponsor.
 - On R/W.
 - Off R/W.
- City PE, full-time employee.
- Post-design services agreement with design consultant, on a project not being administered by DOH.
- Certification by Sponsor/Consultant. Meeting FHWA 1273 and DOH Stewardship Agreement.



Thank You!

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