

Montana Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program

2025 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Montana Department of Transportation invites eligible applicants to apply for Transportation Alternatives funding. Continue reading below for more information and important updates for 2025. Please read the ENTIRE document as there are changes for 2025.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Overall, there is \$16 million in Transportation Alternatives funding available. It is further broken down into the various categories shown below:

2025 Montana Transportation Alternatives Program Funding	
Capital Improvement (less than 5,000 pop. and All Areas)	\$7,193,837
Capital Improvement (5,000 - 50,000 pop.)	\$1,205,619
Pavement Preservation (less than 5,000 pop. and All Areas)	\$799,315
Pavement Preservation (5,000 - 50,000 pop.)	\$133,958
50,000 – 200,000 pop. Metropolitan Planning Organization Areas (MPOs)*	\$6,667,271
TOTAL	\$16,000,000

*MPO Funding Distribution	
Billings MPO	\$1,784,111
Gallatin Valley MPO	\$1,399,044
Great Falls MPO	\$918,444
Helena MPO	\$1,349,833
Missoula MPO	\$1,215,839
TOTAL	\$6,667,271

HOW TO APPLY

If your project is in one of the five (5) MPO areas which are Billings, Gallatin Valley (Bozeman), Great Falls, Helena or Missoula, then you will apply through those MPO's specific call for application process (contact info below). If your project is not in one of the five MPO areas, then you will apply with the overall Statewide process administered by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).

- Billings: Lora Mattox / Elyse Monat MattoxL@billingsmt.gov monate@billingsmt.gov
- Great Falls: Andrew Finch afinch@greatfallsmtnet.net
- Missoula: Aaron Wilson wilsona@ci.missoula.mt.us
- Bozeman: Jeff Butts jbutts@bozeman.net
- Helena: Ty Weingartner tweingartner@helenamt.gov

Montana Department of Transportation webpage – Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program and application process

There are two different applications for the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program – the [Capital Improvement application](#) (generally for new infrastructure and ADA upgrades/retrofit projects) and the [Pavement Preservation application](#). There are corresponding instructions for both the Capital Improvement and Pavement Preservation applications. For the applications and instructions, see the links on the [MDT TA webpage](#).

APPLICATION FUNDING LIMITS

[Statewide funding limits](#)

Capital Improvement - \$1,500,000

Pavement Preservation - \$500,000

These are the limits for TA funding requests. By adding in matching funding and/or local additional funding, the total project size can exceed these limits.

Funding limits may be different for the MPOs Call for Application. See the MPO's website for the MPO funding limits.

DEADLINE

Applications are due by Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 11:59 pm (MST).

MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENTS

Most projects will require a 13.42% local match, however there are some exceptions. For projects within the boundaries of a Reservation, no match is required. These projects are eligible for 100% Federal Transportation Alternatives Funding. Certain Pavement Preservation or ADA upgrade/retrofit projects can qualify for 13.42% State match (instead of local match). For a project to qualify for State match (instead of local match) it must meet the following:

- 1.) Be located on an “on-system” route (MDT Route), within the right-of-way
- 2.) Be either a Pavement Preservation project that is preserving a facility that was originally constructed with Federal-aid funding (such as a previous Community Transportation Enhancements Program (CTEP) project) – OR – be an ADA upgrade project solely to bring an existing facility into ADA compliance, and the existing facility must have been originally constructed with Federal-aid funding (such as a previous Community Transportation Enhancements Program (CTEP) project).

All other projects will generally require a 13.42% cash match (no in-kind match is allowed). If your project is selected for funding, not all of the match is due up front. For example, the match for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase would be due upon execution of the project agreement. The match for the Construction (CN) and Construction Engineering (CE) phase wouldn't be due until approximately 60 days prior to the bid letting date.

MPO FUNDING CATEGORY – 50,000 to 200,000 MPO POPULATION AREAS

As described above there is separate category of funding for population areas of 50,000 to 200,000. There are five (5) areas in Montana that receive this funding which are the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), which include Billings, Gallatin Valley (Bozeman), Great Falls, Helena and Missoula. These MPOs will be administering the application and scoring process for the funding dedicated to each of these areas. If your project is within the urban boundary of these areas, the applicant will need to apply for funding with the MPO that the project is located within. Applicants should NOT apply with MDT's application process for the overall statewide funding for the All Areas and 5,000 – 50,000 population funding. MDT is administering the application process for the funding categories for the All Areas and 5,000 to 50,000 population areas funding and each MPO is administering the application process for the funding specific to their MPO. One note about the Gallatin Valley MPO. The Urban Area of Bozeman is eligible for the funding for the 50,000 to 200,000 population area. The

Urban Area of Belgrade, which is within the Gallatin Valley MPO, but it is a separate Urban Area with a population of 5,000 – 50,000 and therefore, applications from the Urban Area Belgrade should apply for MDT’s statewide funding.

Below is a link to a map showing the Urban Boundaries. To view the Urban Boundaries, on the left click “Layers”, then on the dropdown titled “MDT Boundaries” unhide the “MDT Urban Boundary” layer.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=8a4fe70b08534341afb10a49fb5b7771>

If your project is located outside of the urban boundary, then apply for funding with the Statewide application (Capital Improvement or Pavement Preservation). For assistance on which application to use (Statewide or MPO), contact Dave Holien, TA Program Manager at dholien@mt.gov or 406-444-6118.

2025 APPLICATION REIMBURSEMENT

MDT will provide a \$5,000 reimbursement to certain disadvantaged communities for a complete application that is submitted prior to the deadline (exclusions apply).

The guidelines for reimbursement are found here:

https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/cdb/transportation_alternatives/2025-TA-Application-Reimbursement.pdf

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants to the TA Program include local governments, Tribal governments, school districts, resource agencies, non-profit organizations (though, non-profit organizations must partner with a local government). A full list of eligible applicants is available [here](#).

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible projects generally include pedestrian and bicycle related infrastructure for transportation such as sidewalks and shared-use paths. A full list of project eligible for Transportation Alternatives funding is available [here](#).