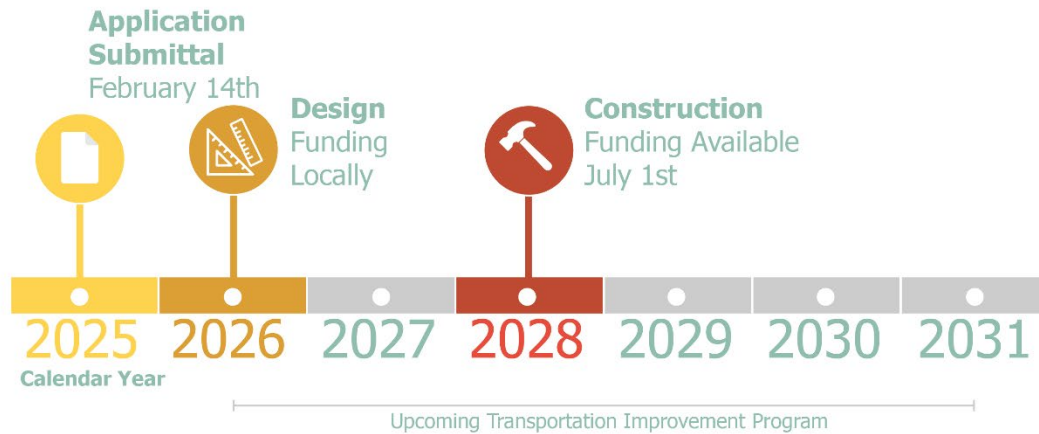# 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Overview
**Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency**

*The purpose of the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency's (TPA) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program is to fund safe and connected infrastructure for non-motorized users. Funding is anticipated to be available as noted below.*



**Application Submittal** February 14th — **Design** Funding Locally — **Construction** Funding Available July 1st

2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031
**Calendar Year**

Upcoming Transportation Improvement Program

## Application Deadline: February 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM

### ANTICIPATED FUNDING

| | |
|---|---|
| Estimated Available Funding: | ~$5.1M/year |
| Grant Reimbursement Maximum: | $1,500,000 |
| Grant Reimbursement Minimum: | $250,000 |

### PROJECT ELIGIBILITY (Projects can be on and off the federal-aid roadway network.)

- Sidewalks
- Bicycle Infrastructure
- Pedestrian and Bicycle signals
- Traffic calming
- Lighting and other safety-related infrastructure
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) for non-drivers, including safe routes to transit
- Safe Routes to School (infrastructure and non-infrastructure, including SRTS Coordinator)
- Recreation trails

- Conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails for non-motorized users
- Boulevard & main street projects that promote economic revitalization and follow "complete streets" principles
- Historic Preservation
- Transit-Oriented development (TOD) infrastructure is also eligible and encouraged, if it includes one of the above project categories.

### ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANT

- Local Governments
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- Natural Resource or Public Land Agencies
- School District, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal Governments

- Any nonprofit entity (FAST ACT restricted to nonprofit entities "responsible for the administration of local safety programs").
- Other local or regional governmental entity with oversight responsibility of transportation or recreational trails the State determines eligible and consistent with the goals of 23 U.S.C. 213(c).

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Palm Beach County is permitted to submit a maximum of six (6) applications across all departments. All other applicants may submit a maximum of two (2) applications.

- All applicants will be required to meet with TPA and FDOT staff to discuss TA applications prior to submittal. Applicants must only submit applications discussed in the meeting. Projects must be disclosed in sufficient detail in the pre-application meeting for funding consideration.

- Projects will be ranked and prioritized in in the TPA's draft List of Priority Projects (LOPP). Applicants submitting multiple projects are permitted to provide a preferred rank of their own projects. However, final prioritization is still subject to approval by the Governing Board.

- Projects will be prioritized until funding is exhausted. If a project is not prioritized or funding is not available in the work program, the project will not be included in the LOPP and must re-submitted the following application cycle to be considered for funding.

- Applications must be submitted online via the FDOT Grants Application Process (GAP) application portal pursuant to the program schedule.

- All applicants must submit to FDOT and TPA staff ample and complete commentary on any project related concerns to mitigate possible design and construction issues prior to inclusion in the LOPP.

- Applications must include all required documents listed in the Submittal Checklist on page 9. Note: Community letters of support are optional and can be submitted for points during scoring.

- Participation in the TA program requires periodic, as-needed project progress meetings with FDOT and the TPA. Failure to participate in these mandatory meetings may result in the de-prioritization of funding or in-eligibility to apply in the future.

- Applications will be ranked by a system derived from Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

- All submitted projects must meet compliance requirements as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and must conform with all federal, state, and local standards such as, but not limited to: Florida's Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways (Florida Greenbook), Florida Design Manual (FDM), FDOT Traffic Engineering Manual (TEM), National Association of City Transportation Officials (for non-NHS projects by eligible entities only) etc. Any projects scoped with experimental design considerations must provide documentation of proof of interim approval of such activities at application submittal. Failure to provide proof will result in project ineligibility.

- Any project that is directly adjacent to single-family residential lots that provide primary access to the impacted roadway must provide proof of public outreach and support. Applicants must provide the total number of impacted properties and if applicable, have >25% of all directly adjacent single-family landowners in support of the project and no more than 10% of adjacent landowners in opposition. Projects not meeting the required applicable support will be flagged for TPA Governing Board review.

- Applicants should expect and budget for reasonable costs of the project not reimbursable by the TA Grant such as inflation. These costs can vary and should be well understood before applying to the program. The applicant is responsible for covering all unanticipated, unaccounted for, or otherwise costs not identified in the initial application, and for inflation or escalation of prices. Applicants are required to cover these increases with local funds.

- Landscaping may consist of up to 25% of the participating costs.

- For projects included in the Transportation Improvement Program, applicants will be required to include the project with the source of design and/or permitting funding in a capital improvement program or budget no later than the following fiscal year.

# 2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Overview
**Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency**

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE

Below is a list of eligible projects for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. They are sorted by project categories.

### 1. Construction, planning and design of on and off-road facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and other forms of non-motorized transportation (pedestrian and bicycle facilities)

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
|---|---|
| • Pedestrian infrastructure such as new sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.<br>• Bicycle infrastructure such as bike lanes, bicycle parking, etc.<br>• Bicycle racks for buses<br>• Pedestrian and bicycle signals<br>• Bike share infrastructure such as bikes, racks, kiosks<br>• New or reconstructed off-road trails that serve a transportation need, such as trails that provide connections to schools, parks, or other public places<br>• Amenities along a trail that serve trail users such as benches, trash cans, watering stations, pet amenities, bicycle repair stations, wayfinding signs, security cameras, etc.<br>• Trailhead projects that serve trail users such as rest areas with benches, restrooms, trail access improvements, parking, kiosks, etc.<br>• Bicycle and pedestrian bridges and underpasses<br>• Lighting and other safety related infrastructure | • Routine maintenance or replacement of existing sidewalks (unless ADA upgrades are needed)<br>• Circular trails/sidewalks<br>• Facilities located within a property that do not connect to other trails/sidewalks<br>• General resurfacing of roadways<br>• General recreation and park facilities: playground equipment, sports fields, campgrounds, picnic and pavilion areas |

### 2. Construction, planning and design of infrastructure-related projects/systems to provide safe routes for non-drivers including children, older adults, individuals with disabilities (safe routes for non-drivers)

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
|---|---|
| • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 compliance projects such as rehabilitation of existing sidewalks, curb ramps, sidewalk widening, etc.<br>• Traffic calming techniques<br>• Lighting and other safety related infrastructure<br>• Traffic realignments, road diets, or intersection changes that improve bicycle and pedestrian access or safety<br>• Crosswalks<br>• Pedestrian refuge areas<br>• Crossing improvements that shorten crossing distance, provide access, and/or primarily improve bicycle and pedestrian safety | • Roadway lighting that doesn't benefit non-drivers<br>• Promotional materials (except for Safe Routes to School; see Category 10)<br>• Intersection realignments aimed at improving vehicular flow<br>• Projects that reorganize pick-up and drop-off primarily for the convenience of drivers<br>• Education programs that are primarily focused on bus safety<br>• Improvements to school bus stops |

**3.** Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized use

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
| --- | --- |
| • Developing rails-to-trails facilities, where there is an adjacent line that is no longer active<br>• Trailhead projects that serve trail users, such as rest areas with benches, restrooms, trail access improvements, parking, etc.<br>• Construction or reconstruction of multi-use trails within a railroad right-of-way<br>• Purchasing and converting unused railroad property for reuse as a trail | • Trails for motorized vehicles<br>• Maintenance of an existing trail |

**4.** Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
| --- | --- |
| • Turnouts and viewing areas at scenic or historic sites<br>• Right-of-way acquisition | • Visitor center<br>• Operation or maintenance<br>• Marketing/promotional materials |

**5.** Inventory, control or removal of outdoor advertising

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
| --- | --- |
| • Data collection<br>• Removal | • Administration or operating expenses |

**6.** Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
| --- | --- |
| • Facilities on historic register or eligible for historic register<br>• Rehabilitation of historic surface transportation facilities such as bridges, lighthouses, canals, etc.<br>• Historic toll and ferry facilities<br>• Historic railroad facilities | • Operating costs<br>• Facilities not open to the public<br>• Construction of replica facilities<br>• Infrastructure not related to surface transportation (air and space)<br>• Structures not on or eligible for the national historic register |

**7.** Vegetation management practices in transportation rights of way

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
| --- | --- |
| • Removal of invasive species and plant native plants<br>• Planting of native species that can help control erosion and ensure that roadsides are stable, look nice, and provide clear sightlines<br>• Planting of vegetation to attract honeybees, monarch butterflies, etc. | • Standalone landscaping<br>• Planting of annuals |

**8.** Archaeological activities related to impacts from transportation projects

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
|---|---|
| • Archaeological excavation and surveys related to a transportation project<br>• Archaeological activities required as part of a TA Set-Aside eligible project<br>• Interpretation and display of artifacts discovered as part of a transportation project | • Archaeological activities not related to a transportation project eligible under federal Title 23 |

**9.** Environmental mitigation activities

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
|---|---|
| • Pollution prevention, abatement and mitigation activities to address storm water management, control and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities listed in Sections 133(b), 328(a), and 329.<br>• Reduction in vehicle caused wildlife mortality such as a wildlife crossing or fencing<br>• Restoration and maintenance of the connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats such as surmountable curbs for turtles<br>• Erosion and sediment control<br>• Native plantings<br>• Minimizing impervious surfaces | • Drainage improvements related to poor maintenance and/or upgrades to inadequate systems<br>• Storm water management activities not related to highway run-off and water pollution |

**10.** Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

SRTS projects are eligible under TA Set-Aside. For more information on eligible activities visit:
www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/guidance_2016.cfm#EligibleProjects.
Note: FDOT also has a separate statewide SRTS Funding Program: www.srtsfl.org.

| Eligible | Not Eligible |
|---|---|
| • Bicycle and pedestrian education targeting student travel (grades K-8)<br>• Public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders<br>• Traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools<br>• Student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health, and environment<br>• Funding for training, volunteers, and managers of safe routes to school program<br>• Infrastructure projects<br>• Sidewalk improvements<br>• Traffic calming, diversion, or speed reduction improvements<br>• Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements<br>• On-street bicycle facilities<br>• Off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities<br>• Secure bicycle parking facilities | • Bicycle and pedestrian education campaigns for the general public |

| SCHEDULE | |
|---|---|
| **Date*** | **Activity and Deadline** |
| **October 31, 2024** | **Program Kick-off.** TPA Board approves program. |
| **November 8, 2024** | **Program Application Workshop.** TA workshop to review program application, scoring criteria, schedule, and project implementation requirements. TPA distributes program overview and application information to local agencies and opens online application portal. |
| **November 12, 2024 – February 7, 2025** | **Pre-Application Meetings.** Required one-on-one meetings with TPA and FDOT representatives to discuss project specifics and clarify application requirements. |
| **February 14, 2025** | **Application Deadline.** All materials submitted via online application portal by 5 p.m. |
| **March 7, 2025** | **TPA Submits Draft Project List and Tentative Ranking to FDOT.** TPA submits tentative project rankings to FDOT for project feasibility and eligibility determination. |
| **FDOT/TPA VETTING PROCESS BEGINS** | |
| **Late March 2025** | **First Email to Applicants.** After initial application review, FDOT emails applicants requesting additional clarification needed before field reviews. If ineligible, TPA to send formal response. |
| **Early April 2025** | **Applicant Responses Due.** Applicants provide FDOT and TPA responses to requested clarifications. |
| **Mid April 2025** | **Field Visits.** FDOT and applicants perform field reviews to ensure potential project is constructible, requires no right-of way acquisition, and determine if drainage is warranted. |
| **Late April 2025** | **Second Email to Applicants.** FDOT sends an email to applicants with comments on issues / concerns, clarifications, updated cost estimates, and/or requests for missing or updated documentation. |
| **April 25, 2025** | **Resolution of Support Due to TPA.** Applicants must submit a resolution from their governing body and/or the governing body of the facility owner endorsing the project and committing to funding of operations and maintenance. |
| **May 2, 2025** | **Response from Applicants Due.** Deadline for applicants to resolve outstanding eligibility issues and submit final requested documentation to FDOT and TPA. |
| **FDOT/TPA VETTING PROCESS ENDS** | |
| **May 30, 2025** | **FDOT D4 returns Eligibility Determinations.** FDOT sends TPA final eligibility determinations to finalize draft priority ranking. |
| **July 2 - 3, 2025** | **Draft LOPP to Committees.** TPA staff presents draft prioritized list of eligible applications to committees for review and input for TPA Board consideration. |
| **July 17, 2025** | **Final Priority List Approval by TPA Board.** TPA Board approves final LOPP |
| **July 18, 2025** | **Submit Project Priorities to FDOT.** TPA submits adopted LOPP to FDOT and notifies applicants of final priority rankings. |

* Program schedule subject to change.

| TA SCORING | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CRITERIA** | **DESCRIPTION** | **VALUE** | **MAX** |
| **WHAT** | | | |
| Bicycle Facility Type<br>NOTE: Multiply total length for each direction by Value | 10'+ shared use path | 5 | 10 |
| | Separated or raised bicycle lanes | 4 | |
| | Buffered bicycle lanes | 3 | |
| | Designated bicycle lanes | 2 | |
| Pedestrian Facility Type<br>NOTE: Multiply total length for each direction by Value | 10'+ shared use path | 5 | 10 |
| | 8'-9' paved path | 4 | |
| | 5'-7' sidewalk | 3 | |
| | 5'+ unpaved path (ADA compliant) | 2 | |
| | Sidewalk or shared use path widenings | 1 | |
| | Standalone ADA facility | 0.2 | |
| Project has traffic calming elements (e.g. roundabouts, speed humps, raised crosswalks/intersections, mid block crossings, speed feedback signs, slow points, etc) | | 5 | 5 |
| **WHERE** | | | |
| Project improves pedestrian facilities in High Crash Ped Corridor per TPA Vision Zero Action Plan | | 5 | 15 |
| Project improves bicycle facilities in High Crash Bicycle Corridor per TPA Vision Zero Action Plan | | 5 | |
| Project provides lighting in Dark/Unlit crash location per TPA Vision Zero Action Plan | | 5 | |
| Project improves pedestrian facilities in Tier 1 Ped Gap | | 5 | 10 |
| Project improves bicycle facilities in Tier 1 Bicycle Corridor | | 5 | |
| Project benefits traditionally underserved communities<br>NOTE: Determine Traditionally Underserved population index within 1 mile of project | Very High | 10 | 10 |
| | High | 6 | |
| | Medium | 3 | |
| Project creates dedicated Pedestrian Facilities within 1 mile of a Transit Hub | | 5 | 10 |
| Project creates dedicated Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles of a Transit Hub | | 5 | |
| Pedestrian project is within 1 mile; bicycle or shared use path project is within 3 miles and provides a connection to a shopping center, multiple trail intersections, regional parks, designated natural areas or recreational centers, medical services, police station, fire station, pharmacies, or grocery stores. | | 5 | 10 |
| Project is within 2 miles of a school and within its school attendance boundary | | 5 | |
| Project improves facilities at an interchange, bridge, railroad crossing, or intersection | | 5 | 5 |
| **WHY** | | | |
| Project has positive environmental impacts (i.e. mitigation activity, pollution prevention & abatement, stormwater management, tree canopy coverage, pervious materials, etc.) | | 5 | 5 |
| Project has been tested as a pilot with local funds | | 2 | 10 |
| Project is endorsed by members of benefit area (HOA, POA, local bike group, etc.) | | 3 | |
| Project is identified in an agency's adopted plan and connects to an existing or proposed non-motorized facility | | 5 | |
| Applicant canceled a previously prioritized or funded project within the past 12 months | | -5 | 0 |
| | | **TOTAL** | **100** |

## HOW TO APPLY

1. **Attend the TPA Funding Programs Workshop on November 8, 2024 (optional)**
   Learn about project eligibility, Local Agency Program (LAP) Certification, and have your specific questions answered by FDOT and TPA staff.

2. **Attend Pre-Application Meeting with TPA and FDOT Staff (required)**
   All applicants must attend a pre-application meeting with TPA and FDOT between November 12, 2024 and February 7, 2025. TPA will schedule these meetings with FDOT and applicants.

3. **Gather Required Documents**
   Each project submittal requires an application, online form, and supporting documents outlined in the Submittal Checklist provided below.  Missing or late documents may result in project ineligibility.

4. **Submit Online via FDOT GAP Application Portal**
   - The application process requires the submittal of the application document with associated attachments via the FDOT GAP Application Portal.  Florida Gap - Log In (blackcatgrants.com)
   - Users must create an account.
   - Additional resources and examples may be found at the TPA's TA webpage at: PalmBeachTPA.org/TA

5. **Stay Tuned**
   Follow the Program Schedule and watch for TPA and FDOT emails regarding the project application.

## SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

*Please use the following checklist to ensure you are including all documents required to be submitted with your application by the submission deadline:*

☐ Application

☐ Attendance and description of project at pre-application meeting.

☐ Location Map (Aerial)

☐ Photographs of project before construction

☐ Conceptual Typical Section or Planview Sections (Existing and Proposed)

☐ Detailed Cost Estimate Spreadsheet (Signed by Professional Engineer)

☐ Right-of-Way Ownership Verification (Plats, deeds, prescriptions, surveys and/or easements)

☐ Community letters of support (Optional) (due at application submittal: **February 14, 2025**)

☐ Commitment Letter from administering agency's director of Engineering or Public Works Department clearly indicating they will "administer and construct the project if funded by the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency's (TPA) Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program" is required (due at application deadline – **February 14, 2025**)

☐ Participation in FDOT Field Visit (to be scheduled on a weekday in **April 2025**)

☐ Proof of public outreach and support required if proposed project modifies a roadway that provides access to single family residential lots.

  • Must have >25% of all landowners in support of the project, whose parcel is directly adjacent to the project. If >10% of adjacent landowners oppose the project, the project is ineligible.

  • The following documentation must be submitted with the application in the form of:
    o Responses to mail outs sent to landowners/residents; Or,
    o Sign-In signatures and input obtained at a neighborhood/public meeting.
       *NOTE: Attendance at a council meeting for the resolution of support is not considered a public outreach meeting.*

☐ Resolution of Support from governing body of the facility owner(s) clearly indicating that the project may be constructed as proposed and is commitment to fund ongoing operations and maintenance of the project - due within 60 days of application due date (**April 25, 2025**). Example Resolution can be found [here](#).