

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

DTIMBTLRRH14

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on DTIMBTLRRH14 WI STAT 85.021, a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website: <https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=DTIMBTLRRH14>

2. Mailing written comments to:

Division of Transportation Investment Management
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4822 Madison Yards Way
PO Box 7913
Madison, WI 53707-7913

WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at wisconsin.dot.gov to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

Kaleb Vander Wiele
DOTDTIMGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Statutory Authority: 23 USC § 213 (federal); § [85.021](#) (state)

Admin. Rule: N/A

Objective:

Per [Federal Highway Administration guidance](#), the purpose of TAP is as follows:

“TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.”

Program eligibility:

Please contact WisDOT in advance of submitting a TAP application with any questions or concerns regarding eligible TAP sponsors and/or projects. Pursuant to federal requirements, a proposed project must meet the following criteria in order to qualify for TAP funding:

- The project must fit within one of the federal eligibility categories as supported by WisDOT TAP policies as outlined in the WisDOT TAP guidelines;
- The project must relate to surface transportation;
- The project must have an eligible sponsor; and
- The project must be selected through a competitive process.

The following entities are eligible TAP sponsors: local governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; natural resource or public land agencies; school districts, local education agencies, or schools; tribal governments; other local or regional government entities with responsibility for oversight of transportation.

Construction projects costing \$300,000 or more are eligible for TAP funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. WisDOT operates TAP as a reimbursement program, not a traditional grant program. Project sponsors must pay for project costs prior to requesting reimbursement and must commit 20% of the project’s cost through the appropriate local budget process. Because TAP projects receive a capped amount of federal funding, any project costs in excess of the approved project amount will be funded entirely by the local sponsor. Project sponsors generally receive 80% federal funding to the cap of the project award.

Program history:

TAP is a legislative program that was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, the [Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act \(MAP-21\)](#). With certain exceptions,

projects that met eligibility criteria for the [Safe Routes to School Program](#), [Transportation Enhancements](#), and/or the [Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program](#) are eligible TAP projects.

Application cycle:

WisDOT most recently announced TAP awards in August 2014 for the state fiscal year 2014-2018 award cycle. WisDOT is still finalizing the schedule for soliciting and announcing the next cycle of TAP projects.

TAP funding is allocated on a competitive basis after a selection committee rates and ranks applications and then makes funding recommendations to the WisDOT Secretary.

MAP-21 requires state DOTs to sub-allocate TAP funding to areas with a population of 200,000 or more for TAP project selection by Municipal Planning Organizations. WisDOT will also continue to operate a competitive TAP project selection process.

Project timeline:

Section 85.021 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires TAP projects to commence within four (4) years of the project award date, or the award is rescinded. The project commencement deadline is fixed by statute and may not be extended. Sponsors of approved TAP projects will receive further commencement information in trainings, project agreement, and other program documentation.

TAP Appropriation in the 2013-15 Wisconsin Budget

SFY 2014 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)	\$6,951,800 (Federal) \$1,000,000 (State funds for bicycle-pedestrian facilities only)
SFY 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)	\$7,049,300 (Federal) \$1,000,000 (State funds for bicycle-pedestrian facilities only)

WisDOT Region TAP Contacts

Please utilize region staff as first points of contact. The [WisDOT TAP website](#) includes a TAP staff listing.

WisDOT Statewide TAP Contact

Tressie Kamp
Statewide Multi-Modal Programs Manager
Email: tressie.kamp@dot.wi.gov
Phone: (608) 266-3973
Fax: (608) 266-0658