![ADOT logo]

Transportation Alternatives Program
for **Greater** Arizona

July 2023

Welcome!

Elaine Mariolle, TA Program Manager

Webinar Overview

1. What is the Transportation Alternatives Program?

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- FHWA Program Guidance, and ADOT TA Program Website
- TA Program: Vision Statement, Development
- Available funding
- Eligibility: project sponsors, projects, and costs
- Project Development Support

2. How do I apply to the TA Program?

- Full TA Program Process
- Project Funding & Timeline

3. Application Walkthrough

- Screening Application
- Evaluation Application

4. Project Evaluation and Selection

- Evaluation Review and Prioritization Process
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Project Evaluation
- Project Ranking and Award Announcement

5. Project Initiation

- Project Initiation
- Project Delivery

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

What is the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program?

Elaine Mariolle, ADOT TA Program Manager

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)'s Surface Transportation Block Grant Program:

- The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside provides funding for projects that help States build a variety of generally smaller-scale alternative transportation projects
- These projects are meant to achieve safer, connected, and equitable on-and off-road networks for all users

Due to the way that the federal government suballocates funding, ADOT's TA Program focus only on Greater Arizona

- Greater Arizona includes parts of the State outside of the Maricopa (MAG) or Pima (PAG) Association of Governments regions.

For Tribal Governments with boundaries that fall both within and outside of the MAG and PAG regions:

- Any eligible project located within MAG or PAG is eligible for TA Program funding through MAG or PAG's TA Program.
- Whereas any eligible project located outside of the MAG or PAG regions is eligible through ADOT's TA Program.
- This currently only applies to Tohono O'odham
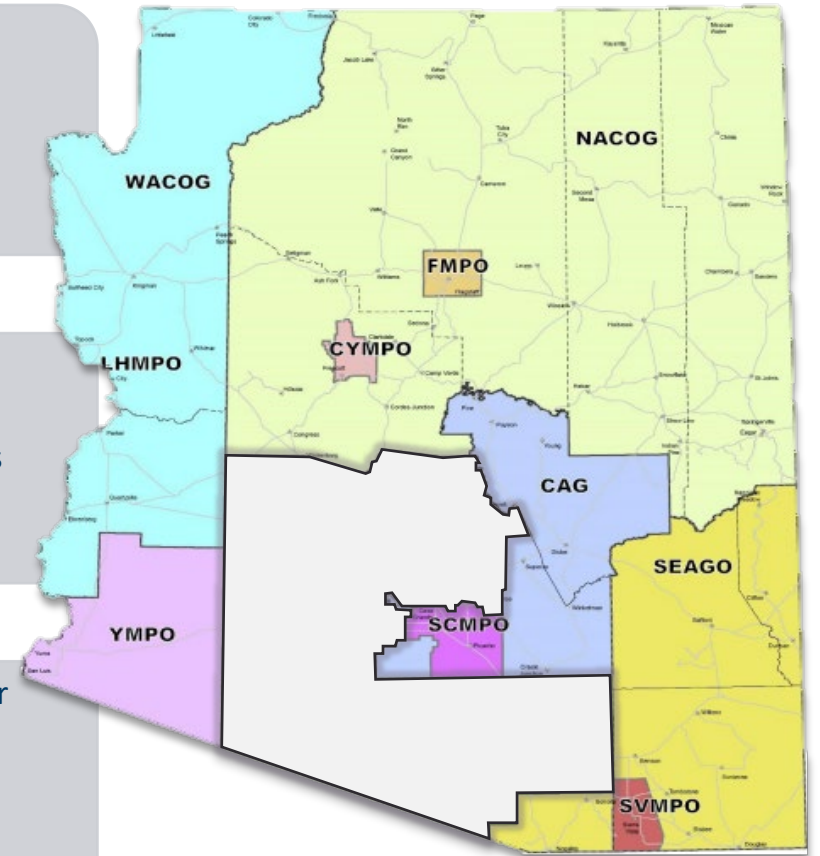
Greater Arizona includes all areas outside of the MAG and PAG regions (in gray)

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

5

FHWA's TA Program Guidance

FHWA's TA Program Guidance serves as the technical foundation for ADOT's TA Program.
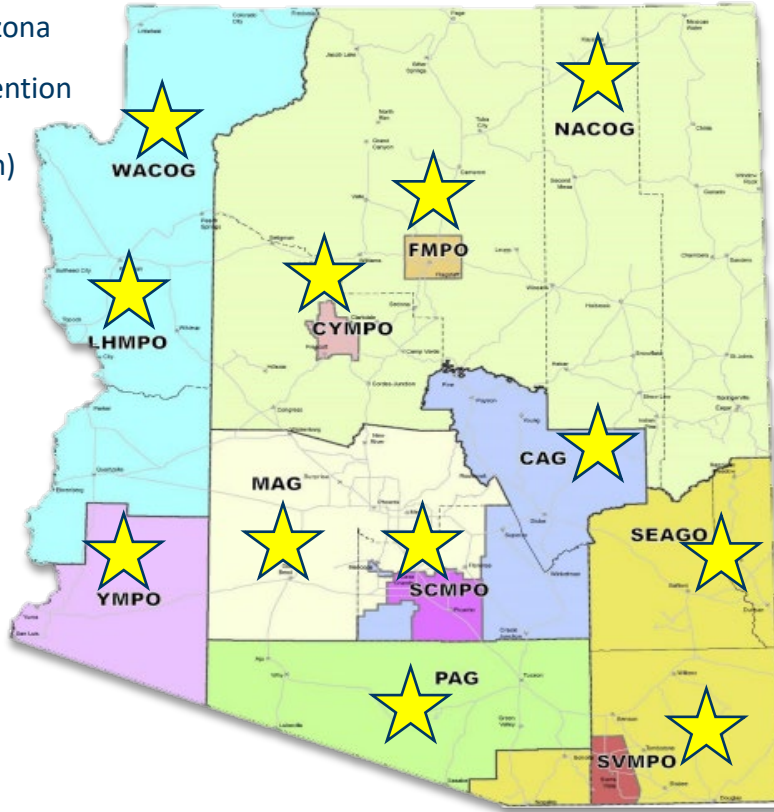
USDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Implementation Guidance Memo:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/ta_guidance_2022.pdf
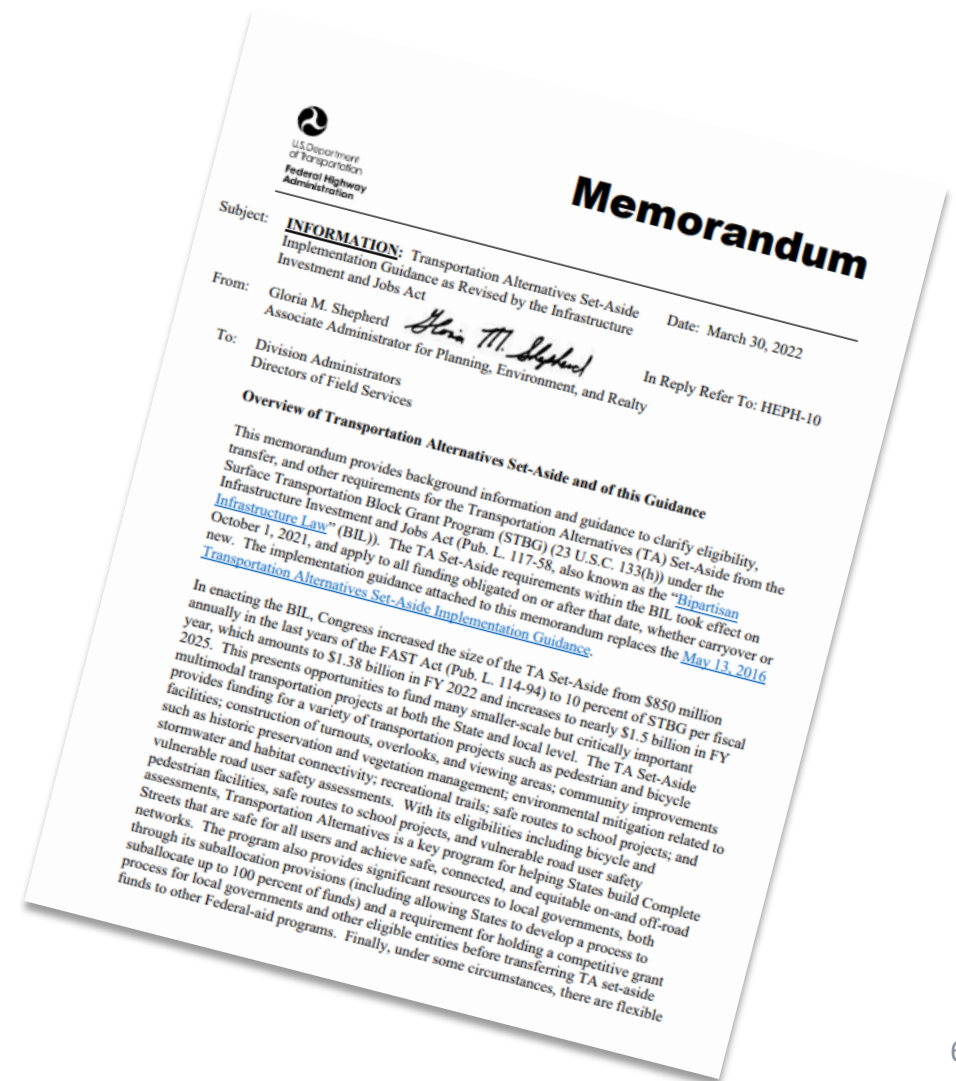
TA Program Development

Legend:
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Pinnacle Prevention (Non-profit representation)
- FHWA
- Arizona State Parks & Trails

ADOT's TA Program for Greater Arizona was developed over the past year in collaboration with an Oversight Committee comprised of representatives throughout Greater Arizona.

The development process led to key themes:
- ✓ Simplicity
- ✓ Flexibility
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Minimize barriers while ensuring program success

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Vision Statement for Greater Arizona's TA Program

A fair and equitable program that helps Arizona address its unique transportation investment needs

Values

- Provide technical assistance to equalize access to program resources for all Arizona communities

- Investment should focus on safety, accessibility, and connections between public health and transportation

- Program decision should be transparent and incorporate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusiveness

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Eligible Project Sponsors

Local Governments

Regional Transportation Authorities

Transit Agencies

Natural Resource or Public Land Agencies

School Districts, Local Education Agencies, or Schools

Tribal Governments

Non-profit organizations who partner with an eligible public entity

MPOs that serve an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or fewer

Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible (i.e. COGs)

Eligible Projects

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Safe routes to school projects

Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas

Environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity

Recreational trails

ADOT and the TA Program Development Oversight Committee did not further restrict eligible projects as based on FHWA's Guidance. See page 21 of FHWA's guidance for the complete list of eligible projects.
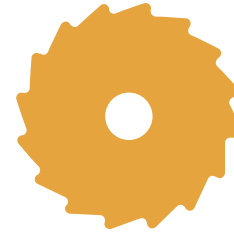
Vulnerable road user safety assessments

Historic preservation and vegetation management

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Eligible Costs

Planning / Scoping

Design

Construction

Educational Programming

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Ineligible Costs

- Right-of-way (ROW) acquisition costs are not eligible

  - Once ROW acquisition or ROW agreements are competed, the project can seek TA Program funding

  - This restriction does not include temporary construction easements

- Other ineligible activities can be found on page 23 of FHWA's TA Program Guidance.

Project Development Support

The TA Program can provide project planning/scoping funding to help ensure communities are able to start new projects and later compete for design and construction funding.

ADOT Project Development Administration (PDA) fees are an eligible expense to further reduce barriers to the TA Program.

Available Funding

Greater Arizona has **~$16 Million** in TA Set-Aside funds available for the current program cycle
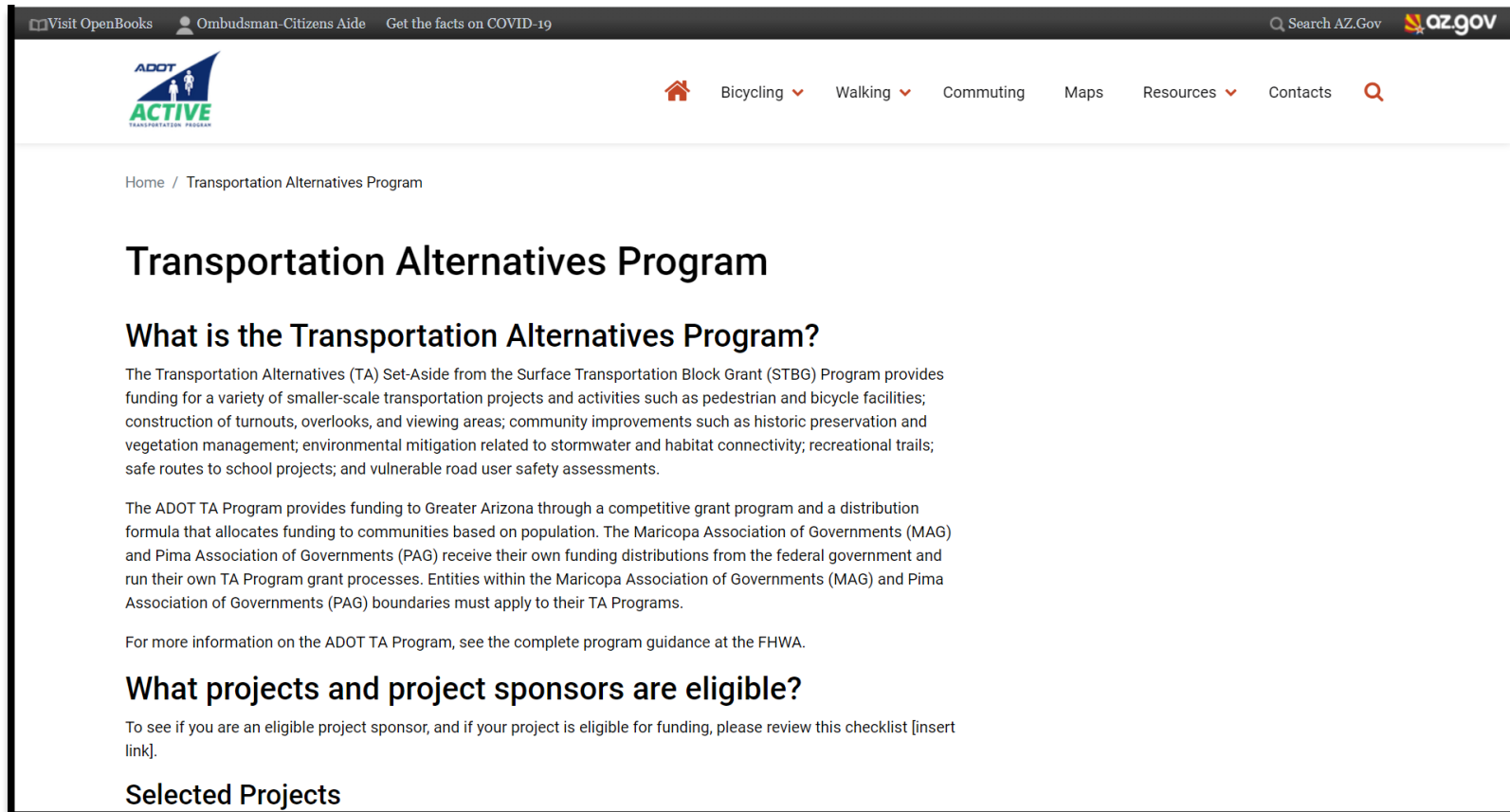
There are currently **no minimum or maximum** project award amounts designated. This may change for future TA Program cycles.

The **required local match** for TA projects will be in accordance with the federal sliding scale rule for Arizona.

- Most local government projects in Arizona are eligible a 5.7% minimum local match, with some exceptions.

- Tribal Governments can use funds under 23 U.S.C. 202 or 23 U.S.C. 203 to pay the non-Federal share of the cost of any project that is funded under title 23, or under chapter 53 of title 49, U.S.C., that provides access to or within Federal or tribal land.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

ADOT Website:
activetransportation.az.gov/transportation-alternatives-program

ADOT TA Program Guidebook

- ADOT has developed a TA Program Guidebook to serve as another resource.

- This Guidebook will be updated for future TA Program cycles and as the program evolves.

https://activetransportation.az.gov/transportation-alternatives-program/guidebook

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

How do I apply to the TA Program?

Jason Biernat, High Street Consulting

Full TA Program Process

July 17, 2023
Call for Projects Announcement

→

Ongoing
Letter of Support Coordination

→

July 17 – August 31
Screening Application Submittal Period

→

July 17 – September 1
ADOT Screening Review

Last Day to Submit: Sept. 29
Evaluation Application Submittal Period

→

Sept. 29 – October 13
Technical Advisory Committee Review

→

By October 20
Generate the TAC's recommended project priority list

→

November 17
State Transportation Board Approves Projects Awards

IGA/JPA Execution

TIP Programming

Complete Project Initiation & Financial Authorization by:
April 14, 2024

Planning/Scoping and Programming projects are administered by Regional Planners/Tribal Planning Coordinators within ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division.

Design and Construction projects are administered through ADOT's Local Public Agency Section.

ADOT will review Tribal Government requests to transfer funding through the ADOT 202(a)(9) Intergovernmental Funds Transfer Agreements (IFTA) process on a case-by-case basis.

These activities can take place concurrently and can be interdependent

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Application Walkthrough

Brittany Gernhard and Crystal Fernandez-Pena, High Street Consulting

Application Process

Screening Application → **Screening Review** → **Evaluation Application**

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Two-Step Application Process

Step 1: Screening Application

The screening application is designed to ensure project readiness from ADOT's perspective

Step 2: Evaluation Application

The evaluation application will be evaluated, scored, and prioritized by the TA Technical Advisory Committee.

The Project Sponsor will submit the application unless they are required to partner with a public agency or local government, in which case the public agency or local government would submit the application.

Applications will be submitted via an online application on ADOT's TA Program webpage.

Screening Criteria

"Yes" for all criteria is required for a proposed project to move forward to a detailed application

Criteria	Score
Is the applicant eligible to sponsor a TAP project?	Yes/No
Is the project activity eligible for TAP funding?	Yes/No
Is the proposed project schedule realistic and feasible to complete without major challenges or delays?	Yes/No
Is the project located outside of MAG and PAG planning boundaries?	Yes/No
Has the sponsor documented a source for local match funding with a commitment letter?	Yes/No
Is the proposed Year of Expenditure cost estimate sufficient to cover the proposed scope of work?	Yes/No
Has the local COG or MPO indicated support for the project? (not applicable to Tribal Governments)	Yes/No

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Screening Application

- The screening application is a web-based form that allows project sponsors to answer questions and submit spatial project information.

- Screening applications will be accepted between **July 17th – August 18th**

- The screening application can be accessed at **https://bit.ly/adot_tap**

TA Program Screening Questions

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Section 1 - Project Sponsor

Organization Sponsoring the Project

Sponsor Eligibility
Select from dropdown

-Please select-

Planning Area

-Please select-

Screening Application Required Attachments

A summary of the attachments Project Sponsors are required to upload into the screening application include the following:

1) Letters of Support from MPO or COG corresponding

   Special cases:

   - MPO or COG – letter of support from the facility owner is required

   - Tribal Government – letter of support from the facility owner is required

2) Letter of Commitment for Local Match

3) Project Cost Estimate

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Screening Application Review

- Members from ADOT's Local Public Agency section and Multimodal Planning Division will review screening applications

  - This gives ADOT project delivery staff an opportunity to review projects, giving them a chance to catch potential issues that are more easily addressed early on. This is especially true for design and construction projects.

    - For example, it's better to ensure an accurate construction cost estimate to avoid a project coming in well over budget. That overrun would be the responsibility of a Project Sponsor to cover. It's in everyone's interest to avoid that situation.

  - ADOT's review will help ensure smoother sailing after projects are awarded and help ADOT meet federal funding deadline requirements.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Evaluation Application Criteria

Focus Area	Criteria	Rating Method	Requirements
Technical Quality	Technical Quality of Scope	Professional judgment based on objective scoring rubric	Scope information from detailed application
Project Schedule	Schedule	Professional judgment based on objective scoring rubric	Schedule information from detailed application
Community Support	Public Involvement	Evidence and quality of public involvement	Materials uploaded in detailed application
Plan Alignment	Plan Alignment	Proposed project is part of an existing plan	Plan(s) uploaded in detailed application
Equity	Disadvantaged Indicators	Project's travel shed includes a transportation disadvantaged community	Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
	Household Income	Median household income of the project's travel shed (lower income = higher ranking)	Median Household Income US Census

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Technical Quality of Scope Criteria

Scope

The questions will be tailored to the project type. The full list of scope questions by project type is available for review in the TA Program Guidebook.

Design

PS&E complete questions and design plans required if project involves construction.

Project Type	Scope Questions
Recreational trail educational programs	• Who will administer the activities or programs? • What groups of people will be reached? What are their safety needs? • How will the activities or program be marketed? • How long with the program last? • Will this project enhance, supplement, or coordinate with any existing programs or events? • What evaluation methods will help determine if the project activities are successful?
Develop an active transportation plan	• What existing plans or efforts will the plan align with and/or further enhance? • Will a Technical Advisory Committee be established for the plan and who are likely committee members? • How will a diverse range of stakeholders across the planning area be encouraged to engage with and shape the plan? • What are the expected outcomes of the plan?

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Schedule Criteria

Provide the expected program year for the project. Provide program years for scoping, design, and construction if relevant.

Estimate schedule ▾

Enter the program year for:

Project scoping <30% PS&E

12^3

Project design

12^3

Project construction

12^3

Community Support Criteria

- Before submitting the application, project sponsors should acquire community input and support from local/tribal/state agencies, elected officials, COGs and MPOs.

- Support letters from local government officials, tribal officials, community groups, regional organizations, and/or state agencies are encouraged and will be accepted as part of the application package.

- Evidence of public involvement, such as informational brochures, public meeting minutes, or newspaper articles are not required, but support the application.

- **Please upload support letters with the detailed application. Do not have them sent directly to ADOT.**

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Plan Alignment Criteria

List any transportation-related plans the proposed project aligns with and supports and describe how the project is align with them.

Plan Alignment ▾

Transportation-Related Plans

List any state and/or community transportation-related plans that the proposed project aligns with and supports.

Project Alignment

Describe how the proposed project aligns with each plan identified above. Include a description of your project's alignment to each plan's goal, objectives, and/or identified solutions as relevant.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Equity Criteria

- Projects will be scored based on the income level within the project's access shed. Access shed distances vary based on project types:
  - Pedestrian Facilities: 0.5 miles
  - Bicycle Facilities: 1.5 miles
  - Transit Facilities: 1.5 miles

- The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool will score the census tracts that the project lies within based on eight disadvantage indicators:
  - Climate Change
  - Energy
  - Health
  - Housing
  - Legacy Pollution
  - Transportation
  - Water and Wastewater
  - Workforce Development

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Evaluation Application

- The evaluations application is a web-based form.
- If the project passes the screening review, the designated point of contact will receive a custom link to complete the evaluation form.

TA Program Evaluation Questions

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Project Information Review

Project Title
New Bike/Ped Path Around Lake Havasu

Sponsor

Project Description
This would create a new bike/ped path to improve accessibility to Lake Havasu.

Total Project Cost

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation
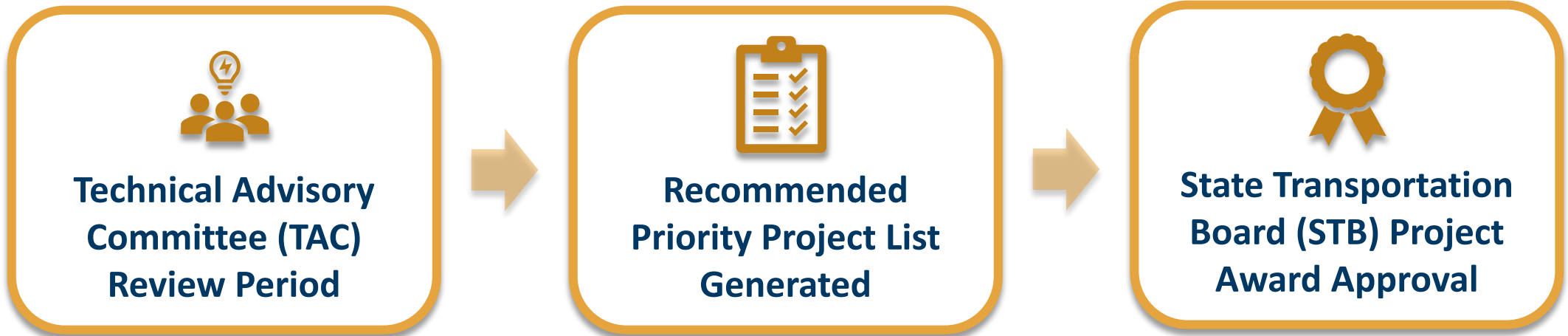
Evaluation Application

A summary of the attachments Project Sponsors are required to upload into the evaluation application include the following:

- Right-of-Way Acquisition Documentation (if the project involves construction)

- Design Plans (if the project involves construction)

- Letters of Community Support

- Evidence of Public Outreach

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Project Evaluation and Selection

Jason Biernat, High Street Consulting

Evaluation Process

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Review Period → **Recommended Priority Project List Generated** → **State Transportation Board (STB) Project Award Approval**

Arizona Department of Transportation

Technical Advisory Committee

- The TAC has **16 members**:

  - **12 voting members** representing Greater Arizona's MPOs and COGs, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, and the Arizona Department of State Park & Trails.

  - **4 advisory members** including, a statewide non-profit representative, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Pima Association of Government (PAG), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

- The ADOT TA Program Manager is the primary liaison between ADOT and the TAC and serves as a technical and administrative resource to the Committee.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Project Evaluation

The TAC reviews Evaluation Applications and provides judgement-based input covering the following evaluation criteria:
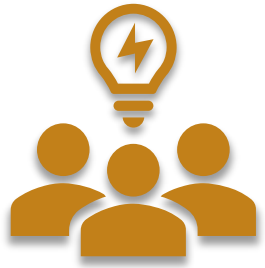
TAC

Technical Quality of Project Scope

Project Schedule

Community Support based on:
- ✓ Letters of support
- ✓ Public Involvement

Plan Alignment
- ✓ How well does the project support related planning efforts?

Federal Requirement

The competitive process must prioritize project location and impact in high need areas
23 U.S.C. 133(h)(4)(D)

Equity

The equity criteria score, based on the project's travel shed inclusion of a transportation disadvantaged community and median household income, is automatically calculated based on the project's location.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Evaluation Results & Surface Transportation Board

The evaluation process will result in a prioritized project list which is then further informed by the amount of available TA program funding.

A recommended prioritized projected list is created from the projects above the effective funding threshold. The list of priority projects that can be funded are communicated to the TAC, Project Sponsors and MPO/COGs.

The recommended prioritized project list based on available funding is sent to the Arizona State Transportation Board for further consideration and project award approval.

Awarded projects are announced via email to Project Sponsors and respective MPO/COGs are notified.

Post Project Award Actions

Jason Biernat, High Street Consulting

Post Project Award Actions

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) / Joint Project Agreements (JPA)

TIP Programming

Project Initiation & Delivery

Project Agreements

- The Project Sponsor executes IGAs/JPAs with ADOT. Agreements should be being as quickly as possible because they take about 3 months to complete.

    - IGAs are agreements between ADOT and other governments

    - JPAs are agreements between ADOT and other non-government entities

- ADOT's JPA Section has more information such as how to initiate a project agreement on their <u>webpage</u> & <u>FAQs</u>

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation
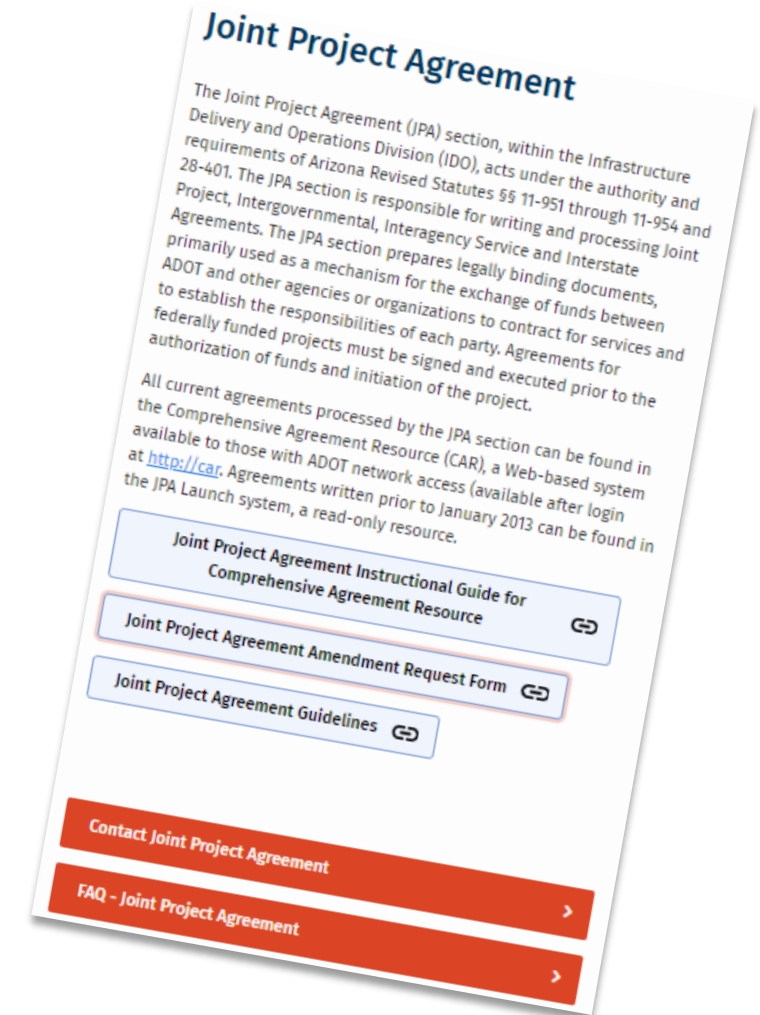
TIP Programming

- The Project Sponsor will need to execute a TIP amendment or administrative modification.

- The Project must be programmed into a fiscally constrained program year on the regional TIP to be included in the STIP.

- ADOT will coordinate with Tribal Governments to determine the best way to program projects.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Project Initiation

Planning/Scoping & Programming Projects

Project Sponsors will work with the appropriate ADOT Regional Planners and Tribal Planning Coordinators assigned to their region to initiate their planning/scoping or programming projects.

Planning/scoping and programming projects will be administered through ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division (MPD).

Design & Construction Projects

Project Sponsors will prepare and submit a Project Initiation request form to the ADOT LPA Section to receive ADOT Project and Federal ID numbers.

Project Initiation request forms and supporting documentation forms can be found on the ADOT LPA Resource Materials Webpage.

ADOT will review Tribal Government requests to transfer funding through the ADOT 202(a)(9) Intergovernmental Funds Transfer Agreements (IFTA) process on a case-by-case basis.

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation

Project Delivery Timeline

- While the timeline on any given TA Program project may vary it may not exceed 4 years when including all phases.

- The project phase schedule that was submitted during screening application may be refined once an ADOT project manager, regional planner, of tribal planning coordinators has been assigned to the project.

Typical TA Program project phase schedule:

Year 1	Planning
Year 2	Design
Year 3-4	Construction

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation
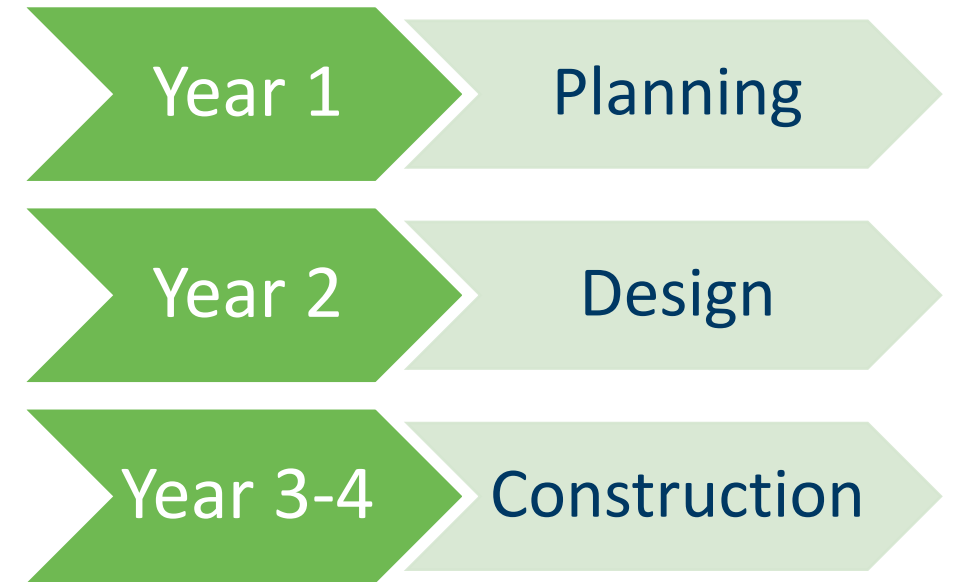
Thank you for your interest in ADOT's TA Program!

Summary of TA Program Resources

ADOT TA Program Website

ADOT TA Program Guidebook

MPOs and COGs

Tribal Governments

TA Program Screening Application

FHWA TA Program Guidance

ADOT JPA Section

ADOT MPD

ADOT LPA Section

ADOT LPA Project Initiation

ADOT TA Program Contact

Elaine Mariolle, ADOT TA Program Manager

TAProgram@azdot.gov

ADOT | Arizona Department of Transportation