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MEMORANDUM

TO: Illinois Quad Cities Transportation Technical Committee Members and Other Communities in the Illinois Quad City Metropolitan Planning Area

FROM: Gena McCullough, AICP, Planning Director

DATE: December 19, 2016

RE: Request for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Candidate Projects for Evaluation Process in Illinois Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area

A Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program, formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), solicitation is being initiated to program the Illinois Quad Cities TAP/TASA targeted funds through 2021. In the Illinois Quad Cities, the estimated funds to be programmed are \$620,817. Annual funding targets for the Illinois Quad Cities are estimated at \$145,405 based on the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act dollars.

Bi-State staff encourages other persons receiving a carbon copy of this notice to work with their respective local governments on potential candidate projects. Noted below are details on funding availability, project eligibility and sponsors, costs and match, process, and the deadline.

Funding Availability

Estimated funds to be programmed are based on the remaining balance to the Illinois Quad Cities in TASA monies, estimated target funds, minus all previously programmed funds. Funding levels may be subject to availability through federal appropriations and subject to modifications with the reauthorization of the transportation act, known as Fixing America's Transportation System, FAST, which is authorized through 2020. Beyond Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020, funding levels are assumed at the current levels based on an expectation by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that programming should reflect anticipated projects within a four-year Transportation Improvement Program.

Project Eligibility and Project Sponsor

A candidate project submittal form is enclosed and may be copied for multiple submissions. Eligible projects must be consistent with the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Quad Cities. The plan is available online: <http://bistateonline.org/transportation/quad-cities-metro-planning/2012-11-13-20-19-45/quad-cities-metro-lrtp-long-range-transportation-plan>. Other eligibility requirements are in the TASA Manual accompanying this memo. Projects must be sponsored by local governments or transit systems, as designated by the Illinois DOT. Eligible projects include trail facilities; safety features and infrastructure for bicyclists

1504 Third Avenue, P.O. Box 3368, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-3368

Phone (309) 793-6300 • Fax (309) 793-6305

E-mail: info@bistateonline.org • Website: www.bistateonline.org



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and pedestrians; turnouts, overlooks and scenic viewing areas and historic transportation facility preservation; and certain archeological and stormwater management tied to highway construction. Priority will be given to pedestrian, trail, and bicycle projects.

Project Cost Estimates, Matching Funds, and Minimum Project Cost

Project costs should be estimated in Year of Submission Dollars (CY2017) with an estimated construction year and a rate of inflation used by jurisdiction to estimate Year of Expenditure (YOE). YOE is expected to coincide with FFY 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021. Please note the anticipated program year in your application. The manual is posted online at <http://bistateonline.org/transportation/quad-cities-metro-planning/2012-11-13-20-10-34/project-programming-processes>.

The TASA funds are required to be matched with at least 20 percent and not more than 50 percent non-federal funds. Projects must have a total project cost no less than \$125,000, as the federal-aid process requires considerable administration on the part of the project sponsor.

Process

The Quad Cities MPO Transportation Technical Committee ranks candidate projects and recommends programming to the Transportation Policy Committee in accordance with the manual noted above. Recommendations and selection of a project(s) will occur at Technical and Policy Committee meetings in April and/or May 2017, respectively. Notice of these meetings will each be sent at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Deadline

Candidate project submittals are requested by Friday, March 3, 2017 by 4:30 p.m. No projects will be accepted after this date. Project submittals may be mailed to our office or e-mailed to gmccullough@bistateonline.org. Let us know if you'd like an electronic version of the submittal form. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact me at (309)793-6302, extension 146 or by e-mail at gmccullough@bistateonline.org or contact Bryan Schmid at extension 123 or bschmid@bistateonline.org.

Enclosures: TASA Evaluation Manual
Application Form

cc: Transportation Policy Committee
Regional Transportation Advisory Group (Urban and Combined Interests)