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MEMORANDUM

TO: Iowa Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Members and Other Iowa Communities in Region 9
FROM: Gena McCullough, AICP, Asst. Executive Director/Planning Director
DATE: Friday, May 14, 2021
RE: Request for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Candidate Projects for Iowa Region 9 Evaluation Process

A call for projects is being issued for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds within Iowa Region 9 Transportation Planning Area. This geographic area includes projects located in rural Scott County, Iowa (outside the metropolitan area) and all cities/county in Muscatine County, Iowa.

The deadline for submitting both Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects will be the end of the business day, 4:30 p.m., on Friday, July 16, 2021.

Eligibility. Projects must be sponsored by state or local governments or transit systems, as designated by the Iowa DOT. STBG funds can be used for any mode of surface transportation – roadway, transit, pedestrian, or bicycle facilities. Roads must be federally functionally classified as a minor collector or higher classification, e.g. local roads are not eligible. Under FAST, these eligibilities remain. Under the Iowa Swap Policy Farm-To-Market roads are eligible. TAP projects can include multi-purpose trails and pedestrian improvements, among other eligible activities (See link to TAP & STBG Manuals for Region 9: https://bistateonline.org/transportation/2012-11-14-00-04-13/2012-11-14-00-04-53/project-programming-processes.html).

Funding Available. The following tables indicate the cumulative funding balances available by fiscal year through FFY2025 for STBG and TAP. FFY2025 represents the maximum dollars available for programming, with STBG at \$3,566,372 and TAP at \$227,213. The balances are based on estimated annual targets and prior programmed projects utilizing these funding sources. Iowa Region 9 is required to fiscally constrain programmed funding by fiscal year. These are estimates of the funding available and contingent on the current transportation act (FAST), or similar funding source in a subsequent act as well as funding appropriation levels, and subject to modifications with the reauthorization of the transportation act,

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known as Fixing America’s Transportation System (FAST), which is authorized through 2021. Beyond FFY 2022, 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.

Region 9 Federal Aid- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program(STBG)

| Fiscal Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| STBG Target | \$1,519,924 | \$1,480,902 | \$1,453,000 | \$1,453,000 | \$1,453,000 |
| TAP Flex Target | \$64,815 | \$63,240 | \$63,000 | \$63,000 | \$63,000 |
| Total Available for Programming | \$2,224,230 | \$3,758,372 | \$3,164,372 | \$2,070,372 | \$6,731,831 |
| Total TAP Flex Programmed | \$0 | -\$63,240 | -\$63,000 | -\$63,000 | -\$63,000 |
| Total STBG Programmed | -\$10,000 | \$2,046,760 | \$2,547,000 | \$53,000 | \$53,000 |
| STBG & TAP Flex Combined Balance | \$2,214,230 | \$1,648,372 | \$554,372 | \$2,060,372 | \$3,566,372 |

Region 9 Federal Aid- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

| Fiscal Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| TAP Target | \$84,599 | \$83,024 | \$83,000 | \$83,000 | \$83,000 |
| Total Available for Programming | \$279,189 | \$362,216 | \$61,213 | \$144,213 | \$227,213 |
| Total TAP Programmed | \$0 | -\$384,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TAP Balance | \$279,189 | -\$21,787 | \$61,213 | \$144,213 | \$227,213 |

Matching Funds and Cost Estimates. Both funding sources are required to be matched with at least 20 percent non-federal funds; however, under the Iowa Swap Policy, STBG-Swap projects can receive up to 100 percent of the eligible costs. 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.

Project costs should be estimated in Year of Expenditure (YOE) Dollars for FFY2023. Please note the estimated YOE percentage used with your cost estimate.

A source, known as TAP Flex funds, can be used either as part of an STBG or TAP project. The Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee has the authority and discretion to program TAP Flex funds to any eligible project(s) submitted as part of this evaluation process. For accounting purposes, TAP Flex is shown and combined with the STBG funds. If flexed to TAP, the amount will be deducted and transferred.

Evaluation Process. This is a locally administered application process. Applications are expected to be concise and easily reviewed. These should be kept as simple as possible while still meeting federal and state requirements. Applications for both STBG and TAP funds in the Appendix of the manuals are being sent to eligible jurisdictions in Region 9. They are also located on the website link noted previously, found in the Appendix.

The Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee ranks candidate projects and recommends programming to the Region 9 Transportation Policy Committee. Recommendations and selection of a project(s) will occur at Technical and Policy Committee meetings in Summer 2021. Notice of these meetings will each be sent no less than 48 hours, but typically at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Project submittals may be faxed to (309)793-6305; mailed to 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201; or e-mailed to kminer@bistateonline.org. If you have any questions regarding this notice or require an electronic copy of the applications, please contact me or Katelyn Miner at (309)793-6300 or by e-mail at gmccullough@bistateonline.org or kminer@bistateonline.org, or refer to the website link provided.

Staff encourages other persons copied on this notice to work with their respective local governments on potential candidate projects based on local plans and implementation strategies.

Enclosures: Region 9 TAP Manual with Application
 Region 9 STBG Manual with Application

cc: Transportation Policy Committee
 Regional Transportation Advisory Group (Region 9 and Combined Interests)
 Muscatine County and Rural Scott County (Outside of MPO) Mayors & Clerks