



# Grant Training for New Jersey Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects



# NJ Dept. of Transportation Grant Resources

## State Funding Programs

Municipal Aid

County Aid

Local Bridges

Safe Streets to Transit

Transit Village

Bikeways

Local Aid Infrastructure  
Fund

Safe Corridors Highway  
Safety Funds

## Federal Funding Programs

Local Lead

**Transportation Alternatives  
Program (TAP)**

**Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**

Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads  
Program

Emergency Relief

High Priority Projects

Transportation and Community  
System Preservation

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# Federal Grant Funds

## Over \$20 million programmed in FY 2014

- Approximately \$5.6 million for Safe Routes to School
- Approximately \$7.2 million for Transportation Enhancements
- Approximately \$8.2 million for Transportation Alternatives Programs (TAP)



# New Jersey's Grant Funds

NJ Department of Transportation  
and 4 regional Local Aid offices



Metropolitan Planning Organizations:



# Authorization of Federal Aid Funds

- Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis
- Costs incurred prior to authorization of funds are ineligible for reimbursement
- 80/20 match (Covered by NJDOT)
- NJDOT serves as pass-through
  - As the direct recipient of federal funds, NJDOT is responsible for ensuring project sponsors comply with applicable federal laws and regulations.
  - NJDOT is responsible for ensuring project sponsors have adequate project delivery systems and internal financial controls to manage federal funds.



# Grant Preparation

- Make sure plans are in place and project is well thought out
- Consider costs – reimbursement grant
- Identify entire project if applying for part of a larger plan
- Phase of work: planning, design, construction?
- Identify and document potential barriers
- Responsible Charge – each applicant must identify a full time person in charge of and responsible for the construction project.



# Current Funding

Hybrid program *for this round only* using both SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21 funds.

## SAFETEA-LU

Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act:  
A Legacy for Users

Application deadline:  
**May 15, 2014**





# Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

## Program Goals

1. Where it's safe, get kids walking and biking.
2. Where it's not safe, make it safe .
3. Encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk & bicycle to school.

## SRTS Grant

- Increase walking & bicycling
- Improve safety
- Reduce traffic & fuel consumption
- Reduce air pollution

Organize large projects into phases costing no more than approx. \$300,000



# SRTS Infrastructure Grant Examples

## Projects can include installation of

- ADA compliant sidewalks
- On and off-road bicycle facilities
- Trails to schools
- Bicycle parking
- Day-lighting crosswalks
- Traffic Calming:
  - Lighted crosswalks, flashing crosswalk signs, permanent radar display, speed tables, raised crosswalks, raised intersections, bulb outs
- Pedestrian bridges to school

## Not eligible

- Education programs
- Projects that only serve high schools
- Projects that only serve to make drop-off and pick-up zones easier to use



# Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

## Who is eligible to apply?

- Municipalities
- Counties
- School districts and schools

## What projects are eligible?

- Infrastructure projects that enable children in grades K-8 to walk and bicycle to school
- Infrastructure projects only
- Within 2 miles of a K-8 school



# Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

## Assessment Criteria

- Support from school board AND municipality\*
- Potential to improve safety
- Potential to increase students walking or biking to school
- Connects to existing bike or pedestrian networks
- Ongoing activities to promote walking and biking



\* County, state, property owner, etc.

# Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

## Extra consideration if they have. . .

- Policy supporting walking and biking to school
- Improving RR crossings along school routes (legal/trespassing)
- Measures of success
- Construction-ready projects
- Supporting documentation such as crash records, speed surveys, survey results, photos, maps, etc.
- Good record on past grants



# Safe Routes to School

## Extra point for one of the following:

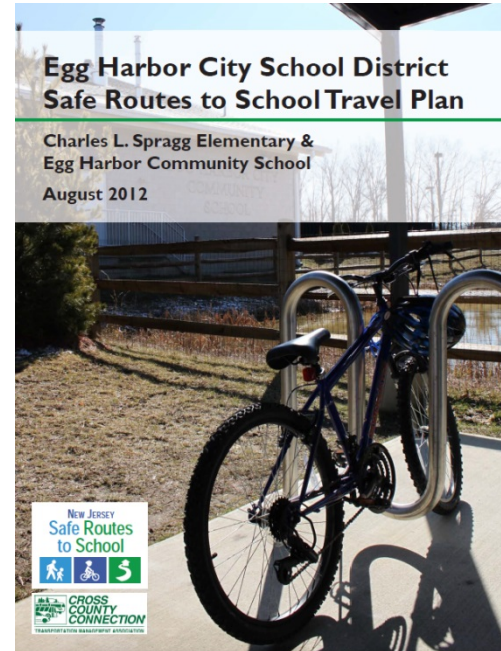
- Disadvantaged communities
- Including a Master Plan or School Travel Plan (that includes project)
- Adopting Complete Streets Policy
- School Wellness Policy that includes supportive walking/biking to school language
- Demonstrating commitment



# SRTS Grants – Earning Extra Points

## School Travel Plans

- “Map” safe routes to/from school to increase students who walk and bike to school.
- Identify current and hazardous routes.
- Determine changes needed so students can safely walk and bike to school.



# SRTS Grants – Earning Extra Points

## **Adopt Complete Streets Policy**

Routinely design and operate entire right of way to enable safe access for all users.



## **Adopt School Wellness Policy**

Include supportive language in school district policies that encourages walking and bicycling to school





# SRTS Grants – Earning Extra Points

Demonstrate Commitment :

- SRTS Recognition Program Recipients
- Walking School Buses
- Ongoing SRTS programs and events



# Safe Routes to School

## NJDOT wants to see:

- Partnerships/Agreements
- Comprehensive Approach



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## What is TAP?

- Community-based
- Transportation projects (land & water)
  - Expands travel choice
  - Strengthens local economy
  - Improve quality of life
  - Protect the environment
- \$150,000 – 1 million



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Who is eligible to apply?

- Municipal and County Government
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- Natural resource or public land agencies
- Tribal Governments

## What project costs are eligible?

- Design
- Right-of-way acquisition
- Construction



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## What is NOT included in TAP?

- Nonprofit organizations are **NOT** eligible as direct recipients (*can partner*)
- Previously eligible activities are **NOT** included:
  - Pedestrian and bicycle safety and education programs
  - Acquisition of scenic or historic easements and sites
  - Establishment of transportation museums



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## 7 Eligible Categories with a Transportation focus:

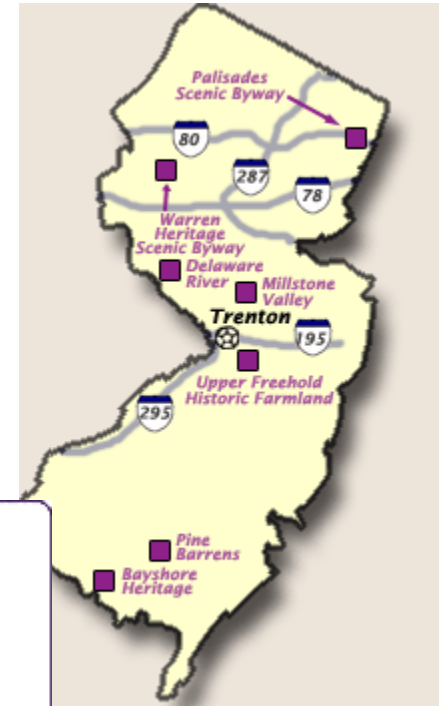
1. Provision of facilities for bikes and pedestrians.



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Eligible Categories with a Transportation focus:

2. Scenic or highway programs, including tourist and welcome center facilities as well as scenic turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Eligible Categories with a Transportation focus:

3. Landscaping and other beautification





# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Eligible Categories with a Transportation focus:

### 4. Historic Preservation



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Eligible Categories with a Transportation Focus:

5. Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures and facilities (including historic RR facilities and canals)



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Eligible Categories with a Transportation Focus:

6. Preservation of abandoned RR corridors (including conversion and use for ped and bike trails)



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Eligible Categories with a Transportation Focus:

7. Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Must Include:

- Local maintenance commitment
- Municipal Resolution of Support\*



\* County, state, property owner, etc.

# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Assessment Criteria:

- Economic and/or tourism benefits
- Promotes use of non-automotive forms of transportation
- Benefits quality of life, community or environment
- Strong local support
- Part of a larger transportation, land use or economic development plan
- Urban Aid designation



# Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

## Assessment Criteria:

### Extra Consideration

- Designated Center, Transit Village, & adopted Complete Streets Policy
- Enhances, preserves or protects historical/archeological resources
- Construction-ready
- Project award and close-out performance
- Urgency → Could the resource be lost?



# System for Administering Grants Electronically - SAGE

IntelliGrants - Windows Internet Explorer - [InPrivate]

InPrivate <https://enterprisegrantapps.state.nj.us/NJSAGE/Login.aspx?APPTHEME=NJSAGE> Google

IntelliGrants

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
**SAGE**  
System for Administering Grants Electronically

## Helpful Links

- [SAGE Help Desk and Support Services](#)
- [Search programs available through SAGE](#)
- [View System Requirements](#)
- [Request Access to SAGE](#)
- [Reset Your Password](#)

## Welcome to the State of New Jersey System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE)

This is the State of New Jersey's grant management system. This system requires authorization for access. If you do not have a username and password please click the **New User** link to request access to the site.

**NOTE:** Counties and municipalities are already established SAGE user agencies. New user access is established by your agency's officials in [DCA SAGE](#).

**ONLY** Counties and Municipalities should contact the NJDCA help desk to make any necessary changes.

### LOGIN

Username:

Password:

[New User?](#) [Forgot Password?](#)

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# Grant Resources

[www.saferoutesnj.org/funding](http://www.saferoutesnj.org/funding)



## Handouts:

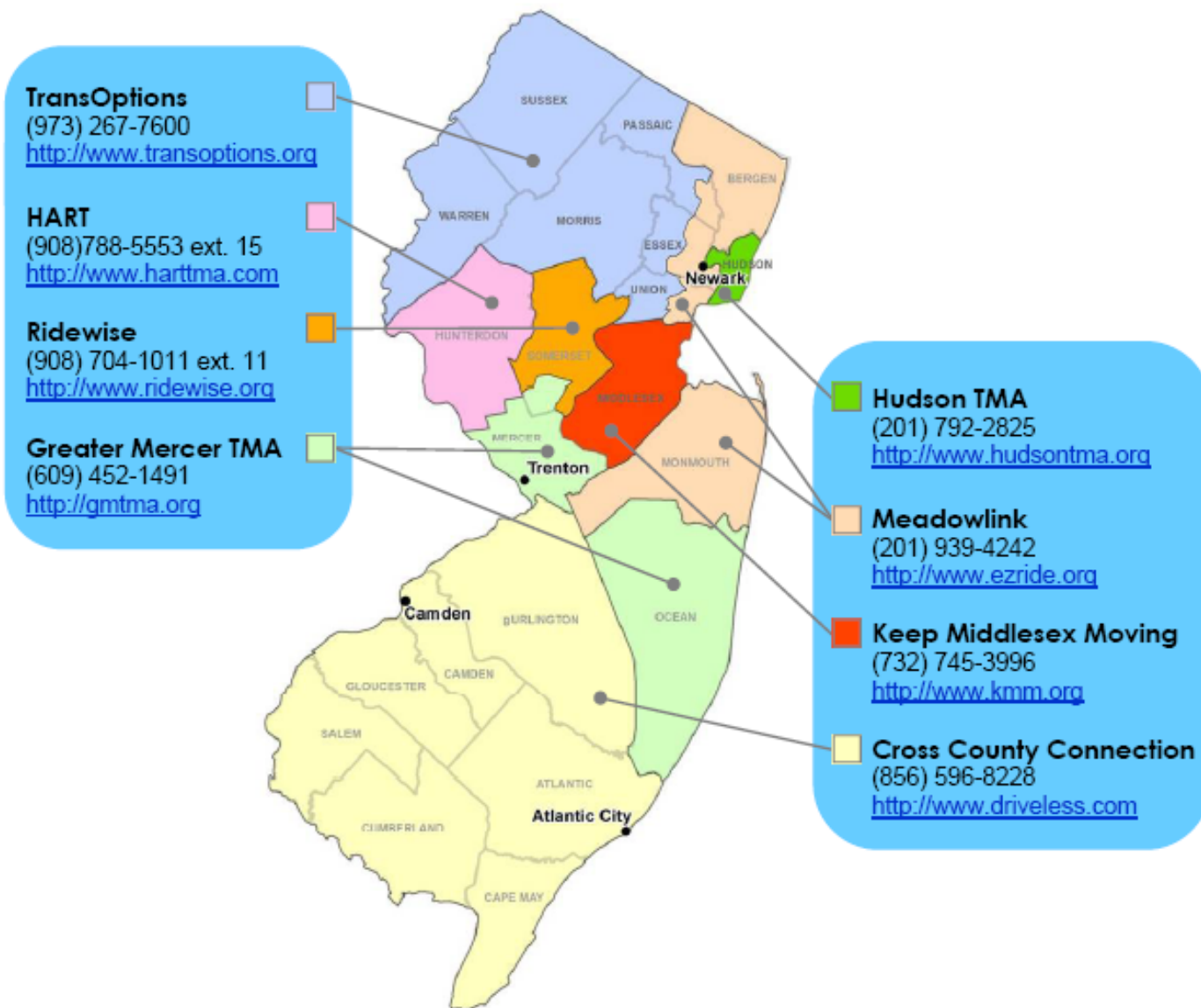
- Tip Sheets
- Grant Resource flier
- Contact information



SRTS Regional Coordinators throughout NJ

NJDOT – Local Aid and SRTS Coordinator, Elise Bremer-Nei

# SRTS Regional Coordinators



# Grant Resources

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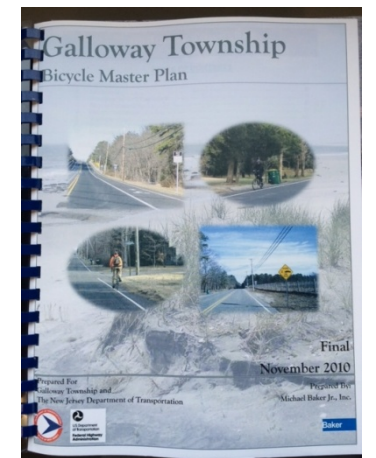
# Other NJDOT Programs

## Bike/Pedestrian Planning Assistance

- Since 1996, plans in 75+ towns
- On-call consultants

Types of projects:

bicycle and pedestrian circulation studies, pedestrian safety assessments, trail feasibility studies, bikeway plans, crosswalk improvement plans, etc.





# Are You Really Ready?

- Are all the parties at the table?
- Who owns the property?
- What will the neighbors think?
- Are there obvious environmental concerns?



# Federal Grant Reality Check

- ✓ These are Federal Grants
- ✓ Responsible Charge
- ✓ Certification Process
- ✓ Financial Accountability
- ✓ Project Management and Supervision

# Scenario Example

Ramapo-po-kus, NJ wants to slow traffic speeds in the school zone of Po-Kus High School. They have designs for narrowing the street (road diet) and adding radar feedback signs.

- What grant application should they fill out?
- What documentation do they need?
- How can their grant application be strengthened?

# Scenario Example

Watcong, NJ wants to build a trail to Wally Watcong Elementary School. They have designs to build a trail between residential housing and the back of the school property. In addition, a few parents have reported near misses with motor vehicles on Speedway Avenue in front of the school.

- What grant application should they fill out?
- What documentation do they need?
- How can their application be strengthened?



# Grant Application Strategies

- Pick the correct program for the project
- Apply for multiple programs if appropriate
- Review NJDOT handbooks
- Prepare application based on program criteria
- Be thorough. Rating based on content of application.
- Include all requested information such as maintenance commitments, letters of support, etc.
- Don't assume raters know the project. Application must stand on its own merit.
- Indicate construction readiness. Discuss status of permits, right of way, and utility relocations
- Include maps and photos
- Secure local support
- Past performance counts. Ensure previously funded projects are awarded and closed-out within required time frames
- Assess organization's ability to administer a federal-aid project and prepare accordingly

Good Luck!

