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August 7, 2026

Subject: **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**
Iowa Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside)

Iowa DOT is now accepting applications for the Statewide Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside). Eligible project activities continue to include a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, and community improvements such as historic preservation, vegetation management, and some environmental mitigation related to storm water and habitat connectivity.

Program intent: The intent of the Statewide TA Set-Aside competitive application program is to make a big impact with the limited funds available. Projects likely to be competitive in the Statewide TA Set-Aside program will have an impact that extends beyond the local or regional scale. The program emphasizes the expansion of the multi-modal trail network through the completion of trail linkages, safe routes to school projects, and projects located immediately adjacent to a state-designated Iowa Byway. Eligible activities and eligible project sponsors are identified in the program guidance available on the program website.

Available funding: Approximately $5 million is available for this application cycle. Of this amount, approximately 20 percent of available funding may be targeted to safe routes to school projects.

Review of applications: Complete applications will be evaluated and assessed based on the following criteria:

- Statewide or multi-regional impact
- Connectivity and completion of trail linkages
- Alignment with local, regional, or statewide planning documents
- Understanding of the Federal-aid highway project development process
- Contribution toward safety for all transportation modes
- Enhancement of statewide tourism benefits
- Leverage of other funding sources
- Need for the proposed project and addressing high-need areas
- Improves accessibility
- Long-term maintenance plans
- Project readiness

Award process and funding availability: Statewide TA Set-Aside program awards will be made by the Iowa Transportation Commission upon recommendation by Iowa DOT. Awards are anticipated in January 2027 with funds estimated to be available October 2027.

Cost reimbursement and required match: Funds awarded through the TA Set-Aside program are provided to project sponsors on a reimbursement basis and are not provided as a lump sum or cash payment in advance of costs being incurred. All projects require project sponsors to pay 100 percent of project costs up front. TA Set-Aside program funds may reimburse for up to 80 percent of eligible project costs or up to the approved grant maximum, whichever is less.

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Treatment of projects: Projects funded by the TA Set-Aside program will be carried out under the same rules and procedures as a highway project on a federal-aid highway. This subjects all projects to, among other things, Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements and other federal-aid requirements applicable to projects on federal-aid highways (e.g., Build America, Buy America, planning, environmental review, letting, etc.).

Application: The program guidance and application materials are available on the program website. All of the following application components must be submitted in the form prescribed:

- Application Form Parts A through F (Word document)
- Part G Checklist and Certification (pdf)
- Form 105101 Minority Impact Statement (pdf)
- Additional Attachments (pdf preferred)
    - Detailed map
    - Sketch plan and cross section
    - Digital photographs
    - Itemized breakdown of total project costs
    - Official endorsement (resolution)
    - Byway organization letter of support (if applicable)
    - Iowa DOT District Letter of Consent to Submit (if applicable)
    - Funding source documentation for each funding source identified as secured by the applicant

Complete applications are due **by email to susan.hollenkamp@iowadot.us before 5:00 pm on OCTOBER 1, 2026**. The email subject line shall be **TASA Application – Applicant Name**. Emails greater than 20 MB will not be received. Attachments may be zip files. If sending multiple emails due to size restrictions, indicate sequence in the subject line e.g. 1 of 2, 2 of 2, etc. Applications received after the deadline will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed. Incomplete applications may be disqualified from consideration. Iowa DOT is not responsible for any errors or delays caused by technical difficulties resulting from the emailing of applications.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and how to apply visit https://iowadot.gov/local_systems /Grant-Programs/Transportation-Alternatives. You may direct any specific questions to Susan Hollenkamp at susan.hollenkamp@iowadot.us or (515) 239-1810.