

# Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program

**Statute:** [§ 85.026](#)    **Admin. Rule:** N/A

## Program objective:

To promote activities that would “enhance” the surface transportation system. Program funds are intended to accomplish something “above and beyond” what is normally done on highway projects. The Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program is designed to fund projects that enhance traditional highway facilities and promote multi-modal activities. The TE program is intended to promote the development of a range of activities that complement or enhance a project or an area served by a transportation project.

## Program eligibility:

Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Local governments with taxing authority, state agencies and Indian tribes are eligible for funding. Projects costing \$200,000 or more that involve construction are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. Additionally, the project must be usable when it is completed and not staged so that additional money is needed to make it a useful project. A project sponsor must pay for a project and then seek reimbursement for the project from the state. Federal funds will provide up to 80% of project costs, while the sponsor must provide at least the other 20%.

Under federal guidelines, the TE program funds the following twelve categories of eligible activities:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
- Scenic or historic highway programs, including the provision of tourist and welcome centers.
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification;
- Historic preservation.
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities.
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors.
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
- Archaeological planning and research.
- Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff or reduction of vehicle caused wildlife mortality.
- Establishment of transportation museums.

A transportation enhancement project must also meet both of the following federal criteria:

- Meet the criteria for one of the above 12 categories as described in federal guidelines.
- Relate to surface transportation.

### Program history:

TE funding began under ISTEA in FY 1992 and has continued through the current federal transportation act, SAFETEA-LU.

### Application cycle:

Projects are typically solicited in even numbered years. Two to three years of funding is made available to projects for the three to four fiscal years following the calendar year in which projects are selected. For example, in 2010, projects are developed for FY 2011-2014 funding. Funding for the TE program is on a competitive basis with a committee ranking projects and making funding recommendations to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary.

Note: Because of the similarities between the TE and the [Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program \(BPFP\)](#) objectives and eligibility criteria, applications and funding for both programs are undertaken together.

**Annual Federal Amount Appropriated:** \$6,256,600

## **WisDOT Program Contact for Transportation Enhancement Program**

Renee Callaway

Email: [renee.callaway@dot.wi.gov](mailto:renee.callaway@dot.wi.gov)

Phone: (608) 266-3973

Fax: (608) 266-0658

## **WisDOT Region Contacts for Transportation Enhancement Program**

### **Southwest Region**

Marilyn Daniels

[marilyn.daniels@dot.wi.gov](mailto:marilyn.daniels@dot.wi.gov)

Phone: (608) 246-3864

Fax: (608) 246-3819

### **Southeast Region**

Robert Schmidt

[robert1.schmidt@dot.wi.gov](mailto:robert1.schmidt@dot.wi.gov)

Phone: (262) 548-8789

Fax: (262) 521-4425

### **Northeast Region**

Glenn Landis

[glenn.landis@dot.wi.gov](mailto:glenn.landis@dot.wi.gov)

Phone: (920) 492-4110

Fax: (920) 492-5711

**North Central Region**

Joe Benbenek

[joseph.benbenek@dot.wi.gov](mailto:joseph.benbenek@dot.wi.gov)

Phone: (715) 365-5714

Fax: (715) 365-5780

**Northwest Region**

Bill Zimmer

[william.zimmer@dot.wi.gov](mailto:william.zimmer@dot.wi.gov)

Phone: (715) 635-5014

Fax: (715) 635-5016