



Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

DOT/MPO Partnership to Better Serve Michigan Communities

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Presentation Overview

- MAP-21 Challenges
- MDOT/MPO Collaboration
- Advantages
- Grant IT System
- Business Process
- Results





Background:

TE, SRTS, & RTP in Michigan before MAP-21

- **TE** – centralized DOT review and selection process
- **SRTS** – centralized DOT review and selection process after school-based planning process
 - Open call for applications, quarterly review meetings
 - Quarterly communication between DOT and MPO's sending TE and SRTS application and approved project lists
 - All Local TE and SRTS projects implemented by Local Agencies through MDOT's letting process and with MDOT oversight
 - Both TE and SRTS Programs were and are in the same MDOT office
- **RTP** – administered by the MDNR





MAP-21 Challenges: MDOT perspective

- Less than 90 days to prepare new program
- Many unknowns
- Grant IT system was scheduled for August 2013 implementation and designed with “TE” in mind
- 6 Large MPO’s and State received direct suballocation in MI
 - could result in 7 different TAP Programs
- Avoid disruption of existing TE projects that were “in the pipeline”
- Let’s not make the same mistakes again!
- Direction from MDOT Director





MAP-21 Challenges: SEMCOG perspective

- Less than 90 days to prepare new program
- Many unknowns
- SEMCOG did not have a system established to process TAP projects
- SEMCOG did not have staff available to solely dedicate to TAP
- Because of “Fiscal Constraint”, there is pressure to obligate all available funds within a FY
- Pressure to show value of projects





Answer: DOT/MPO Collaboration

- MDOT and SEMCOG began meeting to coordinate respective TAP's
- MDOT Selection Advisory Committee utilized by SEMCOG for project comment and technical review
- Schedules have been coordinated to fully integrate MDOT's Selection Advisory Team into SEMCOG's TAP application process
- SEMCOG funded some projects from MDOT's FY 2013 Conditional Commitment list





Answer: DOT/MPO Collaboration

- SEMCOG (and the 5 other Large MPO's in MI) adopted the MDOT Grant System for TAP applications and review documentation
- Monthly meetings are held between MDOT and MPO's to discuss the implementation status of all TAP projects (MPO selected and MDOT selected)
- Reports have been developed to track project progress through the grant application, review, selection, and implementation processes





Advantages: MDOT's perspective

- Win-win for customers! One application, DOT and MPO's will coordinate reviews and negotiate funding
- MDOT grant system makes statewide TAP reporting much more efficient
- More collaboration can lead to better projects that are more likely to be implemented
 - "\$ on the ground", benefitting MI communities
- Good government in action!





Advantages: SEMCOG's perspective

- Staff time savings - didn't have to "reinvent the wheel"
- Did not require a new application portal
- Take advantage of MDOT's experience with TE and SRTS projects
- Builds even more professional links between MDOT and SEMCOG
- SEMCOG can consider funding all or part of an application submitted to MDOT, and vice versa





Other Advantages

- Jointly funding projects – MPO's use all or a portion of their suballocated TAP funding and MDOT uses "Any Area" funds on the same project
 - Helps the Large MPO's with small TAP suballocations (examples: Niles area receives \$43,000/year from the South Bend, IN urbanized area and Kalamazoo receives \$246,000/year)
- So far, MDOT and the MPO's have jointly funded 6 TAP projects
- More collaboration likely





Other Advantages

- Proactive and joint approach to outreach/education of TAP to public
 - Two TAP workshops held
 - Focus on best practices, advice to getting projects funded, & technical assistance on navigating both MGS and eligibility requirements
 - One specific to SRTS - changes under MAP-21/TAP, planning process, eligibility, case studies
 - Ongoing MDOT/SEMCOG outreach to communities
 - Emphasis on meeting prior to application (recommendations; potential other funding sources; meeting match requirements; etc.)





Important Notes

- MDOT and MPO's still retain separate competitive selection processes
 - See MDOT's competitiveness criteria at:
www.michigan.gov/tap
www.saferoutesmichigan.org
 - See SEMCOG's competitiveness criteria at:
www.semco.org/TAPCall.aspx
- Former TE activities and SRTS are still being treated as two separate programs at the DOT level, however, they share the same review schedules
- RTP is still being administered by the MDNR





Results

- \$23 million TAP funds are available to Michigan each year
 - \$16.5 million is selected by MDOT
 - \$6.5 million is selected by MI's 6 largest MPO's
- MDOT still has some remaining TE and SRTS SAFETEA-LU apportionment to obligate
- Demand statewide: 191 requests totaling \$112 million
- Because of emphasis of early discussions with MDOT and SEMCOG staff, only 3 ineligible applications received





MDOT Grant System: Tool that Facilitates Collaboration

A screenshot of the MDOT Grant System web application. The browser address bar shows "https://www.state.mi.us/mdot-wap/mgs/tao-debug/tao.html". The page header includes the MDOT Department of Transportation logo and "Michigan.gov". The main content area is titled "Application Details - TA 2013009.1, TEST - Wayne County Department of Public Services, TEST - Wayne County Nonmotorized Path, Open". It features a navigation menu on the left with options like "Application Details", "Correspondence", and "Grant Application". The main form area contains fields for "Applicant Information" (Agency: County Road Agency, Grant Applicant: TEST - Wayne County Department of Public Services), "Project Description" (Project Name: TEST - Wayne County Nonmotorized Path, Type of Work: TEST - Trail connection from rivertrail to park, Length: 4), "Project Location" (County: Wayne, City/Village: Detroit, Zip Code: 44444), and "Legislative Information" (State Senator, State Representative, US Representative). The footer includes "Michigan.gov" links and "Copyright © 2011 - 2012 State of Michigan".



MDOT Grant System: Tool that Facilitates Collaboration

https://sso.state.mi.us/mdot-waps6/mgs/bin-debug/Main.html - Windows Internet Explorer

MDOT Department of Transportation



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Welcome Thelen Amber

MGS - MDOT Grant System

MGS Home

Application 2013015

- Application Details
- Reviews
- View Grant
- Create Section
- File Notes
- Application Archive
- Merge Pre-Application
- Post Project Information

Grant Application

- Search
- Create TA Application
- Create TA Pre-Application

Enter New Grant

Generate Correspondence

- Select Template
- Letter Queue

Reports

- Standard Reports
- Ad Hoc Reports
- Grant Program Budget

System Administration

- Add Notifications
- Search Notifications
- Maintain Templates
- Maintain Code Tables
- Maintain User Access

Application Details - TA 2013015.01, City of Rochester, Clinton River Trail and Macomb Orchard Trail Dequindre Safety Crossing, Approved

Reviews

List of assigned reviews

<input type="checkbox"/>	Type	Owner	Status	Added	Completed	Section#	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff Recommendation	rangerv	Complete	02/19/2013	02/19/2013	01	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Review	kadzbanb	Complete	01/07/2013	01/20/2013	01	For all applicatio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Review	debrujnj	Complete	01/07/2013	01/28/2013	01	2013-015 I have used.....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Review	brudzinskis5123	Assigned	12/17/2012		01	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Review	ayersa3429	In Process	12/17/2012		01	This area is a da
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Review	RANGERV	In Process	12/14/2012		01	I have attended r
<input type="checkbox"/>	Score: Program Factors	RANGERV	Assigned	12/14/2012		01	

Delete Review(s)

Print

Application Summary



Results: Example Jointly Funded Project



Southwest Detroit Business District:
West Vernor Avenue Streetscape
and Pedestrian Safety Project

Scheduled for November 2013 letting

Project Budget:

MDOT TE:	\$2,480,362
SEMCOG TAP:	\$2,049,053
Detroit & Private:	<u>\$1,004,385</u>
	\$5,533,800



Questions?

A photograph showing the silhouettes of two cyclists riding across a bridge. The bridge has a metal railing with a grid pattern. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow behind the railing. The sky is a deep blue.

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