

CITY OF HELENA
Greater Helena MPO Joint
Meeting TTAC

August 18, 2025 - 3:00 PM

Zoom Recording: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85336314391>

(City/County Building Room 226)

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment on the Agenda / General Public Comment

- A. Comment in person.**
- B. Comment online.**

Agenda Items

Topic	Presenter	Time allotted
<input type="checkbox"/> MPO Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Helena• Lewis and Clark County• City of East Helena• Montana Department of Transportation	MPO Staff	3:00 – 3:10
<input type="checkbox"/> MPO Manager Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision Request: Amendment to TTAC bylaws.• MPO Website• Update on Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)• Update on Public Participation Plan (PPP)	Ty Weingartner (MPO Manager)	3:10 – 3:20
<input type="checkbox"/> MPO Transportation Plans Project Update	Scott Randall (RPA)	3:10 – 3:20
<input type="checkbox"/> TA Funding Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Applications Received• Decision Request: TA Funding Scoring Committee	Ty Weingartner (MPO Manager)	3:20 – 4:00

Member Communications and Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Memorandum

To:	Greater Helena Area MPO TTAC Members
From:	Ty Weingartner, MPO Manager
Subject:	Revisions of TTAC By-Laws
Meeting Date:	August 18, 2025
Agenda Item Type:	Administration
Background:	<p>The MPO Manager has received the inaugural official request for an additional member to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC). Through multiple discussions with the Montana Department of Transportation regarding the appropriate procedures for adding members, the MPO Manager has noted that the by-laws are somewhat ambiguous and do not accurately represent the structure of any existing committees or boards. As this request to join the TTAC marks the first such inquiry in our organization's progression, the procedures we establish will set a precedent for how future committee membership requests are managed. It is imperative for the MPO to thoughtfully consider our approach to these requests, ensuring that both equality and equity are prioritized in our decision-making processes.</p>
Recommendation:	<p>The MPO Manager proposes the formation of a subcommittee tasked with developing proposed revisions to the bylaws. These revisions will clearly delineate the processes and procedures for the inclusion of any new member to the TTAC Committee.</p>
Unresolved Issues:	
Alternatives:	
Fiscal Effects:	

Memorandum

To:	Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
From:	MPO Manager
Subject:	Transportation Alternative (TA) Funding.
Meeting Date:	8/18/2025
Agenda Item Type:	Long-Range Transportation Plans
Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TA Fund Application• TA Instructions
Background	<p>The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) continues the Transportation Alternatives (TA) set-aside from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. Eligible applicants and projects for these set-aside funds include all capital improvement and pavement preservation projects that were previously eligible under the Transportation Alternatives Program established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). This encompasses a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements like historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Notably, non-profits are now eligible to apply, with project requests needing to go through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).</p> <p>The BIL allows MPOs to administer their own competitive application processes, with approval and oversight from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). Applications can come from entities within the MPO as well as from the MPO itself, particularly when there is funding that is not population-based.</p> <p>All submitted projects must meet federal and state eligibility guidelines and identify a local, federal, or state sponsoring agency. Private individuals and organizations may recommend a project provided it is sponsored by the relevant governmental agency. Examples of sponsoring agencies may include, but are not limited to, the City of Helena, the City of East Helena, Lewis and Clark County, and the Montana Department of Transportation.</p>

	<p>The Greater Helena Area MPO is responsible for determining and approving the correct process for collecting TA applications, including the timeline, scoring committee, and other pertinent information.</p> <p>The Greater Helena Area MPO has been allocated \$1,349,833.00 in TA funding.</p> <p>On April 21, 2025, the Greater Helena Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved the procedure for soliciting applications for Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funds, along with the associated timeline and evaluation criteria. The Committee requested that the Transportation Planning Coordinating Committee (TPCC) consider formal approval of this TA process.</p> <p>On May 12, 2025, the TPCC approved the Transportation Alternatives Procedures.</p> <p>UPDATE: August 1, 2025 TA Applications are due. As of date, no applications have been turned in.</p> <p>Update: August 18, 2025: The MPO Manager received three applications for TA Funding. The MPO Manager requests the TTAC consider the creation of a sub committee to score the TA Funding Applications.</p>
Recommendation	The MPO Manager recommends assigning a member from each MPO Entity (Lewis and Clark County, City of Helena, City of East Helena, and MDT) to score the applications and present results to the TTAC.
Unresolved Issues:	Not Applicable
Alternatives:	The Montana Department of Transportation may be willing to score the TA Funding Applications.
Fiscal Effects:	None
TTAC Decision 8/12/2025	

Proposed Schedule

May 19, 2025	Call for Applications is released
August 2, 2025	Application Deadline
August/September 2025	Tentative awarded projects

November/December 2025	Funding, Construction & Maintenance Agreements are executed for each project
January 2026	Project development begins
2027-2029	Project bidding and construction