

FY 2013 Application Design Assistance Projects (For Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities)



Due: Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.
(LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)

Amount Available: \$200,000



Project Eligibility

All projects submitted are required to satisfy the most recent eligibility requirements outlined under official Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Guidance under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The most recent Interim Program Guidance, to date, was released on October 31, 2006. If Federal funds are used to construct the project, jurisdictions must address the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA).

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), activities to develop the scoping phase/preliminary engineering for a project through the Design Assistance program may include:

- Location, project area, length or size
- What is the need? Who will benefit?
- Design concepts or renderings
- Maps, graphics and photographs
- Coordination with nearby projects, other agencies and stakeholders
- Preliminary estimates of cost
- Preliminary review of environmental issues, impacts or constraints
- Preliminary review of anticipated utility impacts and drainage issues
- Preliminary look at right-of-way both existing and needed

Categories include:

1. Completion of the Regional Shared-Use Path and Canal Network, including:
 - Designated school or shared-use path crossings
 - Mid-block crossings, but not limited to pedestrian refuge islands and HAWK beacons
 - Grade-separated crossings, such as underpasses and overpasses
 - Facilities to provide access to regional shared-use path network
2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Access to Transit, including:
 - Assessment of a one-mile radius around existing transit corridor to identify gaps and propose solutions for pedestrian and bicycle access to the transit facilities
 - Assess the feasibility of constructing a bicycle, pedestrian, or shared-use facility
 - Assess opportunities for crossings, including, but not limited to pedestrian refuge islands and HAWK beacons
3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities, including:
 - Feasibility of constructing a bicycle, pedestrian, or shared-use facility including along the existing regional path and canal network
 - Gap filling/creating links, such as cul-de-sac connections and sidewalk easements between isolated neighborhoods
 - Sidewalk improvements; bike lanes/paths and shoulders
 - Safety improvements to existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities
 - Improved signing, marking, and way-finding

Studies/Project Assessment/Preliminary Engineering projects will reference the MAG Pedestrian Design Guidelines, the MAG Bikeway Masterplan, the MAG Complete Streets Guide and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standards. Studies will also include pertinent information essential to apply for funding through CMAQ Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Arizona Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement (ADOT-TEA), and/or Safe Routes to School program.

What is FHWA's Policy for Repayment of Preliminary Engineering (PE) Costs?

The FHWA must require repayment of all Federal-aid reimbursements for Preliminary Engineering projects, including those authorized under the Advance Construction provision, when **either** right-of-way acquisition or construction has not started by the close of the 10th fiscal year following the fiscal year when the project was authorized.

The FHWA cannot grant an outright waiver of [23 U.S.C. 102\(b\)](#). However, the FHWA may approve a State's request for a time extension to complete PE activities on a project that has been delayed for valid reasons.

The FHWA has a longstanding practice of not mandating repayment of PE funds when project termination is directly related to compliance with another Federal law. For instance, repayment of reimbursed PE costs would not be required if the FHWA and a State determine that a project should not be advanced as a result of findings during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. To do otherwise could skew the NEPA process by causing a State to favor a "build" alternative to avoid repaying PE costs incurred during the NEPA review.

PROJECT APPLICATION

Please provide the following information about the project. This portion of the application *should not exceed 10 pages* including photos, maps, support letters and other exhibits. *Submit 25 bound or stapled copies of each project application.*

Submit the application in the following order:

I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

1. Name of Applicant Jurisdiction
2. Address (include City and Zip Code)
3. Telephone and Fax Numbers
4. Name and Title of Contact Person
5. E-Mail Address of Contact Person
6. Amount of Funding Requested

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Name
2. Project Description (Example: This project is a sidewalk/shared-use path)
3. Location (the names of the streets that form the project boundaries i.e. on XXX street, from XXX street to XXX street)
4. Approximate Area (extending XXX miles)
5. The median household income in the project area (use block group data from <http://geo.azmag.gov/maps/demographic/>)
6. Map with street names clearly showing the project area boundaries and surrounding land uses
7. Aerial photos (if available)
8. Photographs with captions of the study area showing the problems/issues

III. PROJECT NEED

1. Why is this project needed?
2. How will this project benefit:
 - (A) low-income;
 - (B) minority;
 - (C) elderly;
 - (D) physically challenged;
 - (E) school children.

IV. REPLICATION

1. How could this project demonstrate the beneficial use of bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities in other locations in the MAG region?

V. LINKAGES

1. Does this project add or complete a critical link in an existing transportation network (local or regional)?

VI. EXISTING PLANS

1. Is this project included in adopted plans or policies?
2. How does this project help to achieve existing plans?

VII. SUPPORT and RESOURCES

1. List the community partners that will be supporting the development and promotion of this project. Include city departments that will also be supporting the project.
2. Indicate that the jurisdiction has the following resources:
 - a. Dedicated staff person to manage the project. Which city department will be responsible to provide information to the consultant?
 - b. Base information (topo survey, aerial photography, ALTA survey in electronic/digital format, easement information, utility placement information).

VIII. COST AND FUNDING

1. What is the approximate cost for plans, designs, and specifications for this project?
2. Are there designated funds for construction of this project? If yes, what funding source has been identified?
3. Are there funds for maintenance and who has the responsibility for maintenance?
4. If funding has not been designated for construction of this project, what efforts have been made to identify funds that could be used for this project?
5. Property Owner Letter of Support (if easement is needed)

REFERENCE: *2013 Design Assistance Guidebook* details information on the following topics:

- Design Assistance Program Description
- Project Eligibility
- Available Funding
- Schedule
- Program Focus
- Match Requirement
- Project Evaluation and Selection
- Evaluation Criteria
- Developing a Cost Estimate for the Design Project
- Responsibilities of Project Sponsor
- Process After Selection
- On -Call Consultant List
- Pre-Contract Scoping Meeting
- Contact Information