



Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council

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Policy Committee:

*Carolyn Peterson, Chair
Dooley Kiefer, Vice Chair
Carl Ford, Secretary*

Executive Director:

Fernando de Aragón, AICP

Planning Committee:

*William Gray, P.E., Chair
Dan Kwasnowski, Vice Chair*

February 29, 2008

RE: Transportation Enhancement Program

The purpose of this letter is to notify potential sponsors that the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in conjunction with the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council and the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) is soliciting for your project proposals under the second round of funding within the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) **Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP)**. SAFETEA-LU was signed into law in August 2005 and covers a five-year period through Federal Fiscal Year 2009.

The first round of SAFETEA-LU TEP funding completed in 2006, allocated approximately \$5.5 million to various projects throughout NYSDOT Region 3. The current funding level for 2008 is unknown at this time. Due to the lack of information of available funding the ITCTC has no way to predict the number of projects that may be funded this cycle.

The TEP provides Federal funding to project applicants for the implementation of special transportation improvements that add value to the surface transportation system by enhancing the total environment of the system. There are twelve eligible activities that can receive TEP funding. Several project types eligible for funding includes improvements to transportation related bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, scenic and historic preservation, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, and environmental mitigation. The TEP Guidebook provides detailed information about the specific types of projects eligible for this program as well as the application process. This guidebook and application is available at www.nysdot.gov/enhancementsprogram.

All projects funded through this program must be available for public use. This is not a grant program, it is a federal reimbursement program, which requires the project sponsor to front all project costs and seek reimbursement under TEP guidelines. Also, project sponsors are required to provide a minimum 20% matching share of the total project cost.

Applications can be submitted by sponsors from one of the following three (3) categories:

- A municipality (City, County, Town or Village);
- Another State Agency (NYSOPRHP, DEC, etc.); or
- An Authority (other than the NYS Thruway Authority/Canal Corporation).

The Department's anticipated timetable for project selection is as follows:

- February 29, 2008 Call letters distributed.
- March 26, 2008 Workshop will be held for program education and project specific question and answers.
- May 1, 2008 Optional draft application reviews (eligibility determination).
- June 27, 2008 Application submission deadline.
- August 2008 NYSDOT/SMTC/ITCTC rating & prioritization complete.
- Fall 2008 Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee recommendations and selection decisions complete.
- December 2008 Applicants/Sponsors notified of project awards.

A public workshop for program education and application development has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation district office, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York. No advanced registration is required for the workshop. Attendance at the workshop is not mandatory to apply for TEP monies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either myself or Victor Jorin at 607-274-5570.

Sincerely yours,



Fernando de Aragón, AICP, Staff Director
Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council