

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program FACT SHEET

What is the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program?

Transportation Enhancement (TE) is a Federal-aid reimbursement program. This is not a grant program. The Federal Highway Trust Fund pays 80% of the project cost with the project sponsor providing the matching funds. Projects must comply with federal environmental requirements and other federal regulations; including those for considering disadvantaged business enterprises in consultant selection and for paying prevailing wages during construction.

The program originated with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991; was amended as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998; and was restated with a minimum base for TE funding in 2005 with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

What makes a project eligible for Transportation Enhancement Funds?

Transportation Enhancement activities must have a direct relationship – by function, proximity or impact to the surface transportation system. Activities must be over and above normal projects, including mitigation.

Only 12 activities are eligible as Transportation Enhancement activities. They are:

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
2. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
4. Scenic or historic programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).
5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
6. Historic preservation.
7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
10. Archaeological planning and research.
11. Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
12. Establishment of transportation museums.

How are the funds distributed to the states from the federal government?

The federal government provides approximately \$800 million in TE funds to the State transportation agencies annually. The State of California receives approximately \$74 million per year of the available TE funds nationwide.

Summary of TE Targets				
(\$1,000s)				
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Statewide Regional	\$54,901	\$52,968	\$51,000	\$57,000
Interregional	\$26,723	\$17,656	\$17,000	\$19,000
Total	\$81,624	\$70,624	\$68,000	\$76,000

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How are funds distributed within California?

California's TE dollars are divided between the counties and the State.

1. Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) control three quarters of the dollars through their Regional TE. The Regional TE share for each county is determined by formula and managed through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
2. The twelve Caltrans districts control the remaining one-quarter of the dollars through Interregional TE. These funds are also managed through the STIP.

Statewide Regional TE Summary (\$1,000s)				
County	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Lassen	\$228	\$237	\$227	\$254
Modoc	\$80	\$126	\$121	\$135
Plumas	\$150	\$142	\$137	\$153
Shasta	\$446	\$402	\$388	\$434
Siskiyou	\$301	\$279	\$268	\$299
Tehama	\$131	\$202	\$195	\$218
Trinity	\$185	\$145	\$139	\$156

How are TE projects programmed?

TE projects are programmed one of two ways: Applications from an RTPA or by a Caltrans district. RTPAs apply for Regional TE funds. Caltrans applies for Interregional TE funds.

Regional TE candidate projects may be submitted for consideration to the county RTPA at anytime. Each RTPA is responsible for determining which projects they will program. Once an RTPA has decided to proceed with programming a TE project, they submit a TE Application through Caltrans to either be amended in the current STIP or to be programmed in the next STIP cycle. RTPAs may use these funds for projects in the cities, county, or on the State Highway System (SHS).

Interregional TE candidate projects are submitted for consideration to Caltrans Headquarters by each Caltrans district during the STIP cycle. All interregional candidate projects compete statewide to be funded by the program in the next STIP cycle. Caltrans focuses these funds on interregional corridors throughout the state on SHS.

What are some examples of TE projects?

Northern California has many examples of TE projects. Most are eligible under multiple activities. Some examples are listed below.

Alturas Scenic Beautification project installed decorative street and pedestrian sidewalk lighting along Main St (US 395) in the City of Alturas.

Skyline South Multi-Use Pathway will construct a bicycle and pedestrian path in Susanville from Bizz Johnson Trail to SR 36.

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Portola Pedestrian Improvements project will construct a pedestrian link between recreational facilities.

East Redding Bike Lanes Phases I and II will provide a bike route on the eastside of the City of Redding by extending the existing bike lanes on College View Drive to Old Oregon Trail, on Old Alturas Road to Old Oregon Trail, and on Old Oregon Trail from SR 44 to SR 299.

Dorris Centennial History Wall at City Park in the City of Dorris will construct a concrete/rock wall with a metal sculpture depicting 100 years of history. Landscaping and sidewalk will also be installed.

Lake Siskiyou Trail project will construct a multi-use trail, restore shoreline, and improve parking along Lake Siskiyou.

Tehama County I-5 Native Tree Planting will plant native plants along the I-5 corridor.

Lewiston Road Bike-Pedestrian Lane project will construct Class I or II bikeway along approximately 1 mile of Lewiston Road to connect the nearby school to commercial and residential areas.

Castella Vista Point project on I-5 will improve the parking and viewing area by modifying drainage, constructing a concrete barrier wall, provide additional parking spaces, ADA sidewalks, and pave the viewing area.

How can I get more information?

For more information, please contact:

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