



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

June 24, 2013

## **CIRCULAR LETTER 2013-09**

### **2013 ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

**COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS/MAYORS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is now accepting applications from eligible project sponsors interested in applying for funding from the 2013 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). ITEP is a federal program designed to improve transportation access, traffic safety and quality of life in Illinois by promoting alternative transportation, such as bike and hike trails, streetscape and beautification, and preserving transportation resources.

ITEP provides funding for projects that promote sustainable and livable communities, develop transportation options, and preserve visual and cultural resources. The funds are awarded competitively and any local or state government with taxing authority is eligible to apply and sponsor an enhancement project. Local matching funds are required and work must begin on funded projects within three years.

The application information is on the ITEP website at: [www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html). The website includes all 2013 ITEP Guidelines written in accordance with the new federal transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The deadline to submit on-line applications is Tuesday, August 20, 2013. Applicants will be required to submit a hard copy and required attachments to IDOT within three working days of the on-line submittal.

IDOT is accepting project applications for ITEP funding in the following categories / sub-categories:

1. Provision of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicycles and other non-motorized forms of transportation.

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2. Landscaping and other scenic beautification as a part of the construction of a Federal-Aid highway project under (23 USC § 319 (a)) or in conjunction with a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funded project.

(Please note that landscape / streetscape projects are no longer eligible as standalone projects.)

3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
4. Community improvement activities including:
  - a. Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities.
  - b. Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control.
  - c. Archaeological activities relating to impacts from the implementation of a transportation project eligible under Title 23 USC.
5. Any environmental mitigation activities, relating to pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to:
  - a. Address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities described in Sections 133(b)(11), 328(a), and 329 of Title 23; or
  - b. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
6. Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas.

The ITEP program considers the following entities eligible to receive Transportation Alternatives Program funds through the ITEP program.

1. local governments;
2. regional transportation authorities;
3. transit agencies;
4. natural resource or public land agencies;
5. school districts, local education agencies, or schools;
6. tribal governments; and
7. any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a State agency) that the State determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of subsection (c) of Section 213 of Title 23.

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Although State agencies and MPOs with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails cannot sponsor a project, they can partner with an eligible project sponsor. Nonprofits are not eligible to be a project sponsor but can partner with an eligible project sponsor.

If there are any questions concerning the 2013 ITEP Guidelines or application process, please contact Ms. Christy Davis at [Christy.Davis@illinois.gov](mailto:Christy.Davis@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,



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Acting Engineer  
Local Roads and Streets



Jeffrey M. South, P.E.  
Bureau Chief  
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cc: Greg Piland, FHWA – Illinois Division  
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