

Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure
2026 Solicitation and Project Application Webinar

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Agenda

1. Welcome
2. AT Infrastructure Program Overview & 2026 Available Funding
3. 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitation Parameters
4. Letters of Intent Contents & Sections
5. Application Contents, Sections & Scoring Criteria
6. Project Selection Process
7. Project Development and Construction
8. Key Takeaways, Webinars and Resources
9. Questions

2. AT Infrastructure Program Overview, 1 of 4

- Program Purpose:
  1. Connecting communities and key destinations within them
  2. Boosting public health by creating safer environments for people to walk, bike or roll to their destinations
  3. Mitigating safety hazards related to interacting with vehicular traffic
- Funds are appropriated by the Legislature by session law, per Minnesota Statutes 174.38 for grants to statutory or home rule MN cities, towns, counties, and non-profits, as well as Federally Recognized Indian Tribes who share geography with MN
  - ➢ The program was created in 2017 and has held open solicitations in 2022, 2023 and 2024 previously. A solicitation was not held in 2025.

2. AT Infrastructure Program Overview, 2 of 4

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was recently developed between OTA and SALT to establish the general approaches for the two offices to jointly administer the AT Infrastructure program.

- It defines how each office will operate, both individually and collectively, to proceed from capital budget requests through grant closeout.
- It establishes dual solicitation arms aligned to a Local Entity or Tribal jurisdiction's structure, regulations and processes. Solicitation documents and applications are tailored to each arm, providing only the requirements that apply.
- When eligible funding is available, SALT and OTA will administer independent and separate solicitations; however, they will be concurrent, coordinated, and collaborative.

2. AT Infrastructure Program Overview, 3 of 4

- Per the MOU, the Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Program is now a grant program co-administered by SALT and OTA.
- Non-infrastructure AT grants are administered by the Office of Transit & Active Transportation (OTAT). Their design and planning assistance grants are helpful precursors for strong infrastructure grant applications.

The AT PROGRAM

2. AT Infrastructure Program Overview, 4 of 4

2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitations (2)

- Federally Recognized Indian Tribes } "Tribal" Arm (OTA)
- Counties
- State Aid Cities
- Non-State Aid Cities } "Local" Arm (SALT)
- Townships
- Registered Non-Profits



2. 2026 Available Funding, 1 of 1

- AT Infrastructure Program is funded solely by MN State Legislature appropriations
- Oversight by the Infrastructure Work Group (IWG) of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)
- 2026 Tribal AT Infrastructure –$600,000 available
- 2026 Local AT Infrastructure - $4,800,000 available
- 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitations will be available for Greater Minnesota (beyond the 7-county metro area) only



2. 2026 Available Funding Background, 1 of 1

Met Council is offering their second opportunity for active transportation funding with their 2026 Regional Solicitation. These grants derive from the 3/4 cent 7-county metro sales tax for funding bike and pedestrian infrastructure improvements as well as planning assistance.

- 2024 Met Council Regional Solicitation: Funded $19M for 17 project selections
- 2026 Met Council Regional Solicitation: Proposes $48M for local bike & ped infrastructure, and $2M for planning
  - ✓ Public entities, Tribal governments and non-profit organizations may apply
  - ✓ Construction costs <u>including design and engineering expenses</u> are eligible uses of grant funds
  - ✓ 2027, 2028 or 2029 construction is desired
- 2026 Response: $142M+ requested via 83 applications from 41 unique entities.

3. 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitation Parameters, 1 of 4

All Eligible Projects Must:

1. Improve safety and ability of people to walk, bike or roll throughout their entity
2. Be ready for construction in calendar years 2027 or 2028
3. Have a minimum effective service life of 10 years
4. Have a signed resolution of support from non-Tribal entities other than the applicant impacted by the proposed projects
5. Have not received an earmark for the same project

All Local Eligible Projects Must:

A. Have a signed resolution of support from applicant governing board supporting project and application
B. Have a signed resolution of support from sponsor supporting project and establishing sponsorship relationship (if required) – more details on the next slide
C. Have a letter of support from the District Engineer if impacts to Trunk Highways or local infrastructure located with Trunk Highway Right-of-Way are proposed

3. 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitation Parameters, 2 of 4

Registered Non-Profits, Township, and Non-State Aid City applicants require a project sponsor for their application and project. The sponsor's tasks can include, but are not limited to:

- Serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the community
- Request a State Aid Project / State Project number for the project
- Ensure the project meets milestones and dates for scheduled completion
- Assist local entity in execution of any grant agreement
- Develop, review, and approve the construction plan project
- Ensure that any required environmental documents and permits are received, and requirements are followed
- Submit plan, engineers estimate, and proposal to the District State Aid Engineer (DSAE)
- Advertise/let/award the project in accordance with state aid and/or federal aid procedures
- Submit the State Aid Pay Requests / project grant progress reports to the DSAE
- Communicate progress and updates with the DSAEs and State Aid Active Transportation Engineer
- Ensure that the project receives adequate supervision and inspection to ensure that project is completed in conformance with approved plans and specifications
- Assist with project close out and final contract documents
- Retain project documents in accordance with document retention schedule

A Joint Powers Agreement between grantee and project sponsor should clearly indicate who is responsible for what.

3. 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitation Parameters, 3 of 4

- 2026 AT Infrastructure Grant Amount (Tribal and Local):
  - Minimum Selection: $50,000
  - Maximum Selection: $600,000
- AT Infrastructure provides funding for capital construction costs only
  - Eligible costs: for constructing or maintaining infrastructure serving an active transportation purpose to connect communities and/or connect key destinations within a community
  - Ineligible costs: engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction administration, or other non-construction related costs
- AT Infrastructure funds can contribute to standalone projects, active transportation components of larger projects or provide the local match to Federal or other grants
- AT Infrastructure funds do not require any local match, and grants are paid on a reimbursable basis

3. 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitation Parameters, 4 of 4



4. Letter of Intent Contents & Sections, 1 of 2

- Available for a 1-month period via an online form – September 14 to October 9, 2026
- The goal of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is to provide potential grant applicants an initial review to ensure project eligibility and determine project readiness before investing time and effort in preparing a full application
- OTA and SALT staff will review their jurisdiction's LOI submittals and prepare written responses to all applicants. These responses will be sent by Friday, October 23, 2026.
- Full Application Submittal period opens Monday, October 26, 2026
- Letters of Intent are not required to submit a full application
- LOIs are strongly encouraged for smaller-sized or first-time applicants

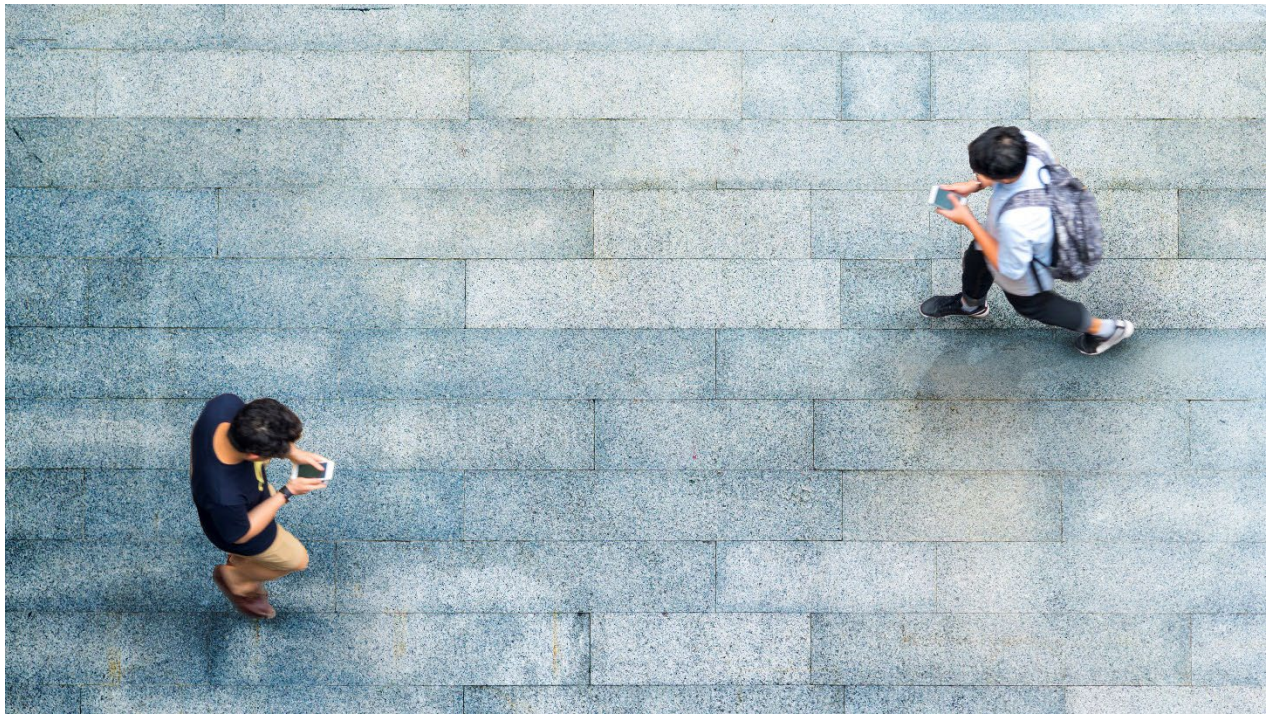
4. Letter of Intent Contents & Sections, 2 of 2

A. Applicant Information
B. Project Information
C. Project Location
D. Funding Sources
E. Eligibility Check
F. Project Improvements
G. Planning, Experience & Public Engagement
H. Advancing Equity



5. Application Contents, Sections & Scoring Criteria, 1 of 4

- Application will be open for about 2.5 months via an online form only
- Full Application Submittal Opens Monday, October 26, 2026
- Full Application Submittal Closes Friday, January 22, 2027
- The application may be intermediately saved, and it will accept (via cut/paste) responses prepared offline



5. Application Contents, Sections & Scoring Criteria, 2 of 4

I. Project Information

II. Project Improvements & Safety

III. Community Engagement & Transportation Policies

IV. AT Equity Score

V. Attachments (25 MB Max Total Requested)

VI. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

VII. Affirmation of Non-Collusion

VIII. 2026 AT Infrastructure Application Submittal



5. Application Contents, Sections & Scoring Criteria, 3 of 4

- Project Information
- Project Improvements & Safety – 40% of Score
  - What is the project?
  - What safety risks exist today?
  - How will the proposed improvements mitigate safety risks?
- Community Engagement & Transportation Policies – 20% of Score
  - What is the level of planning and priority?
  - How have stakeholders been engaged?
  - What policies does the applicant employ to encourage walking, biking and rolling?
- AT Equity Score – 40% of Score
  - How is equity advancing with this project?
  - What disadvantaged populations are being served?
  - What are the transportation needs of the specific location?

5. Application Contents, Sections & Scoring Criteria, 4 of 4

REQUIRED MINIMUM ATTACHMENTS

Missing or incomplete submittals of these documents can be grounds for disqualification

- ALL - Engineering or planning based construction cost estimate
- ALL - Timeline indicating major milestones and their anticipated completion dates
- ALL - Project Map with routes and improvements identified
- ALL (if applicable) - Resolutions of Support from all other entities impacted by proposed project
- ALL (if TH impacts are expected) - Letter of Support from District Engineer
- LOCAL only - Applicant Entity Resolution of Support
- LOCAL only (if applicable) - Project Sponsor Resolution of Support

6. Project Selection Process, 1 of 3

Local AT Infrastructure Solicitation

- Local AT Infrastructure applications will be reviewed and scored by SALT plus additional MnDOT scorers and consultations
- Local project selections will strive for equitable distribution across the program selection pools (next slide) and MnDOT Districts
- Minimum of 1 project per selection pool and 1 project per MnDOT District, pending quality and quantity of Local applications received

Tribal AT Infrastructure Solicitation

- Tribal AT Infrastructure applications will be reviewed and scored by OTA plus additional MnDOT scorers and consultations
- Tribal nations will compete amongst a single program selection pool (next slide) for project grant selections
- Minimum of 1 Tribal project selection, pending the quality and quantity of Tribal applications received

6. Project Selection Process, 2 of 3

Local Arm Selection Pools

Greater MN Counties & State Aid Cities

- Including Chisago County, State Aid Cities within Chisago County and the State Aid Cities of New Prague & Northfield

Greater MN Non-State Aid Cities & Townships

- Including Non-State Aid Cities and Townships within Chisago County and the Non-State Aid Cities of Cannon Falls, Hanover & Rockford

Tribal Arm Selection Pool

Greater MN Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

6. Project Selection Process, 3 of 3

- SALT and OTA will make Local and Tribal project selection recommendations to the ATAC IWG Advisory Committee in April/May 2027
- ATAC IWG will review, discuss and provide input on project recommendations
- SALT and OTA will advance ATAC IWG input and recommendations to the MnDOT Commissioner for final project selection decision making
- SALT and OTA will notify all applicants of their project selection status and grant selection amount on or before May 28, 2027
- Projects selected for small Local and all Tribal entities are required to have a project kickoff meeting promptly following notification

7. Project Development and Construction, 1 of 2

- Refer to State Aid's State Fund Grantee User Guide (PDF) or Tribal Affairs' *Grant Manual (PDF)* for full details on the post-selection process
- Selected entity completes construction plans and cost estimate
- Plan is reviewed and approved by responsible authorities. SALT or OTA is notified to review and verify grant eligible items prior to title sheet signature.
- SALT or OTA will then prepare the project funding letter based on the project's expected needs per engineer's estimate and other identified funding sources
- Selected entity can procure a construction contract per their governing process

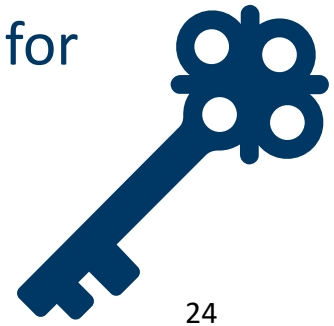
7. Project Development and Construction, 2 of 2

- Selected entity submits accepted contractor unit cost documentation to SALT/OTA to determine the final AT funding amount
- Final AT funding amount will be shared with selected entity via the project encumbrance letter
- SALT and OTA will assist entities in preparing the grant agreements for Local/Tribal execution and coordinating final MnDOT review and approval
- Grant agreement must be fully executed before construction begins. Funds are secured in the name of the project at this step.
- AT Infrastructure funds are reimbursed as work is completed by submittal of contractor invoices back to SALT or OTA.



8. Key Takeaways, Webinars and Resources, 1 of 3

1. 2026 AT Infrastructure funds are available to Local Entities located in and Tribal Nations sharing geography with Greater Minnesota
2. Go to Program Websites for 2026 AT Infrastructure Solicitation Updates & Resources
   a) AT Infrastructure - State Aid
   b) Tribes and Transportation
3. Consider submitting an optional Letter of Intent (available September 14, 2026)
4. Full application submittal will begin October 26, 2026
5. Up to $600,000 available per project (with no Local/Tribal match required) for funding program eligible expenses seeking construction in 2027 or 2028
6. Project selections will be announced on or before May 28, 2027



8. Key Takeaways, Webinars and Resources, 2 of 3

- AT Infrastructure Webinar Dates, via MS Teams (webinar links with dates and time available at AT Infrastructure - State Aid)
  - Tuesday 9/8 from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
  - Wednesday 9/9 from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
  - Thursday 9/10 from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

A webinar recording and a PDF of the presentation slides will be available on or by 9/25/2026 on the Program websites

- Resources: AT Infrastructure - State Aid & Tribes and Transportation
  - LOI Application and Solicitation Guide – Posted September 14, 2026
  - Full Application and Solicitation Guide – Posted October 26, 2026
  - FAQs – Posted October 26, 2026

8. Key Takeaways, Webinars and Resources, 3 of 3

- 2026 SRTS Infrastructure Solicitation is available statewide to local entities only. Tribes are encouraged to partner or express support for Local SRTS projects with Tribal benefits. The 2026 SRTS Infrastructure schedule will run concurrent with 2026 AT Infrastructure.
  - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Webinar Dates, via MS Teams (9/8-9/10, webinar links with dates and times available at SRTS Infrastructure - State Aid)
- OTAT is offering a fall 2026 SRTS Planning Assistance solicitation for creation or updates to SRTS Plans. Refer to SRTS Non-Infrastructure – OTAT for details.
- Met Council's 2026 Active Transportation solicitation is now closed for application. More information on that program can be found at Met Council AT. Project selections will be announced in early 2027.

9. Questions



- We are happy to address any program or solicitation questions in the time we have remaining
- Please reach out to us directly with project-specific questions

Thank you!

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