

# I. Program Overview

What is the **Transportation Enhancement Program**?

As part of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Program (STP), the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) is a reimbursable, federal-aid funding program for transportation-related, community projects designed to strengthen the intermodal transportation system. The TEP supports communities in developing projects that improve the quality of life for their citizens and enhance the travel experience for people traveling by all modes. It fosters more choices for travel by providing funding for projects that enhance the cultural, aesthetic, historic, and environmental aspects of the intermodal transportation system. The program can assist in funding projects that create bicycle facilities, restore historic buildings, preserve abandoned railway corridors for pedestrian trails, mitigate highway runoff, acquire scenic viewsheds, create transportation museums, preserve scenic or historic highways, and other transportation related enhancements.

Funds provided by TEP are on a cost reimbursement basis. The TEP is **NOT** a grant program.

The reauthorization of the surface transportation legislation – the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), enacted in August 2005 – extended the federal government’s commitment to funding these non-traditional transportation-related projects. Because TEP funds are STP funds, projects must conform to all applicable federal STP requirements including United States Code Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Statewide and metropolitan planning rules, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements, and all Maryland policies and procurement rules and regulations also apply.

Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), a modal administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), supports and administers the TEP for Maryland as a service to its customers. SHA encourages and promotes the development of TEP projects, as well as provides some project support services. SHA will not design, manage, construct, implement, or request permits for TEP projects led by other project sponsors.

What is the  
**purpose** of this  
manual?

This manual is intended to help potential project sponsors understand the TEP and determine its appropriateness for their project. Current project sponsors should use this manual not only in completing an application for TEP funding consideration, but also as a guide or reference throughout the life of the project. This manual reflects Maryland's TEP, which in some cases is more restrictive than the federal program and varies from other states' programs. This manual provides general information on the program, including eligibility criteria, funding requirements, the application process, the project selection process, and the project development and implementation processes. SHA will coordinate with project sponsors on project details, specific to each project.

**Please Note:** Project sponsors are responsible for adhering to all program requirements. If a section is unclear or there is an activity not covered, please contact SHA for clarification or additional information. Questions and comments will be addresses as quickly as possible. SHA may update or modify this document at any time. These refinements will be posted on the TEP website